

Scandinavian Genealogical Research Manual

Volume 3

Danish-Norwegian Genealogical Research Sources

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SCANDINAVIAN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH MANUAL

VOL. 3

DANISH-NORWEGIAN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SOURCES

by Finn A. Thomsen

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THE COUNTIES OF DENMARK AND NORWAY

DENMARK:

1793-1970

Aaberaa-Sønderborg
Aalborg
Aarhus

Bornholm
Frederiksborg
Haderslev
Hjørring

Holbaek

København (Copenhagen)
Maribo
Odense
Praestø
Randers
Ribe
Ringkøbing
Skanderborg
Sorø
Svendborg
Thisted

Tønder
Vejle
Viborg

Before 1793

Part of Schleswig-Holstein
Part of Aalborghus, Mariager
Haureballegaard, Aakjaer and part of
Skanderborg
Bornholm
Frederiksborg, Kronborg and Hirtsholm
Part of Schleswig-Holstein
Aastrup, Sejlstrup, Børglum and part of
Aalborghus
Holbaek, Draxholm, Kalundborg and
Saebygaard
København and Roskilde
Halsted, Aalholm and Nykøbing
Odense, Rugaard, Assens and Hindsgavl
Tryggevaelde, Vordingborg and Møen
Kalø and part of Dronningborg
Riberhus and part of Koldinghus
Lundenaes and Bøvling
Part of Skanderborg and Silkeborg
Sorø, Ringsted, Korsør and Antvorskov
Nyborg and Tranekjaer
Vestervig, Ørum, Dueholm and part of
Aalborghus
Part of Schleswig Holstein
Stjernholm and part of Koldinghus
Hald, Skivehus and part of Dronningborg and
Silkeborg

NORWAY:

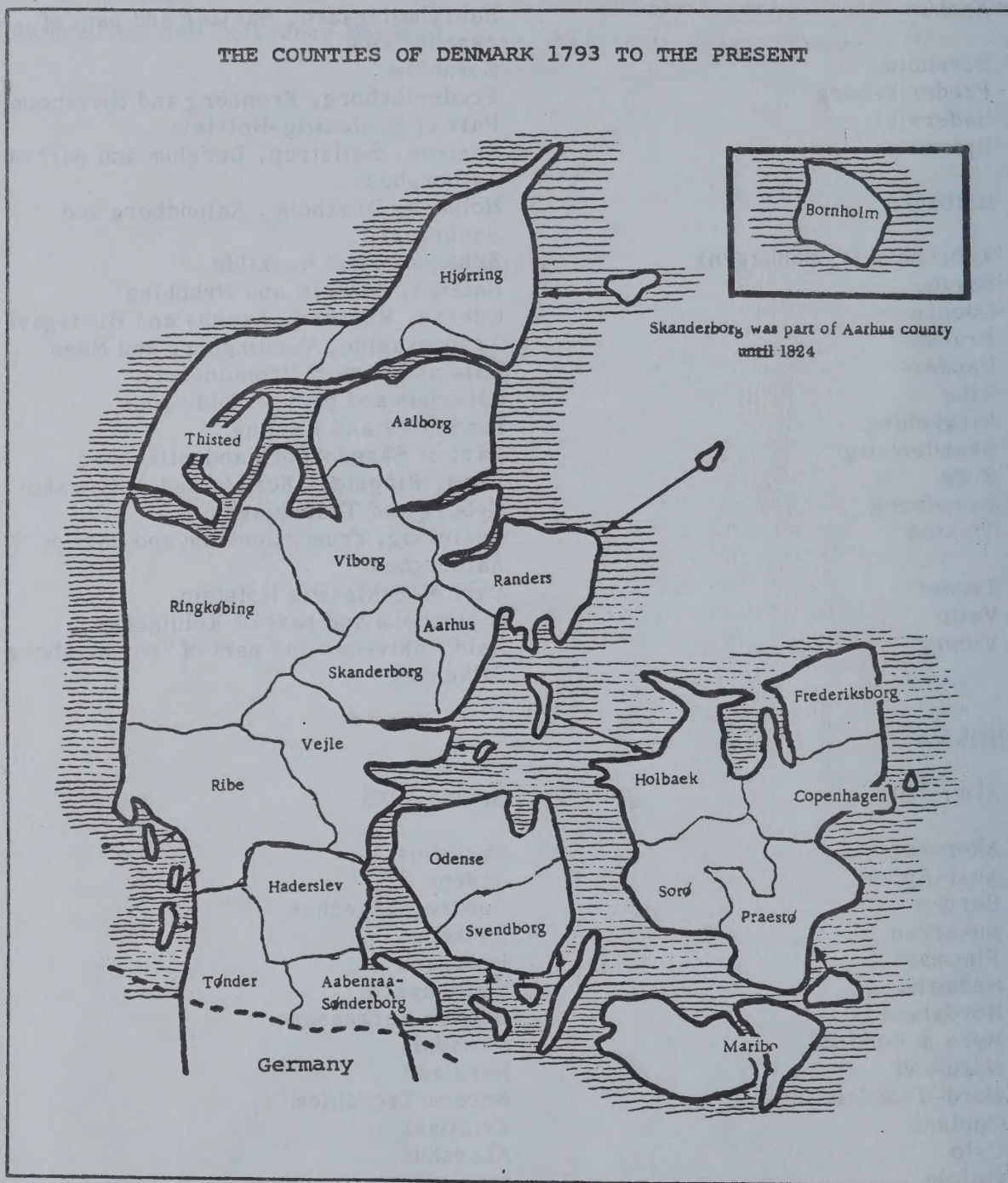
After 1918

Akershus
Aust-Agder
Bergen
Buskerud
Finnmark
Hedmark
Hordaland
Møre & Romsdal
Nordland
Nord-Trøndelag
Oppland
Oslo
Østfold
Rogaland
Sogn & Fjordane
Sør-Trøndelag
Telemark
Troms
Vestfold
Vest-Agder

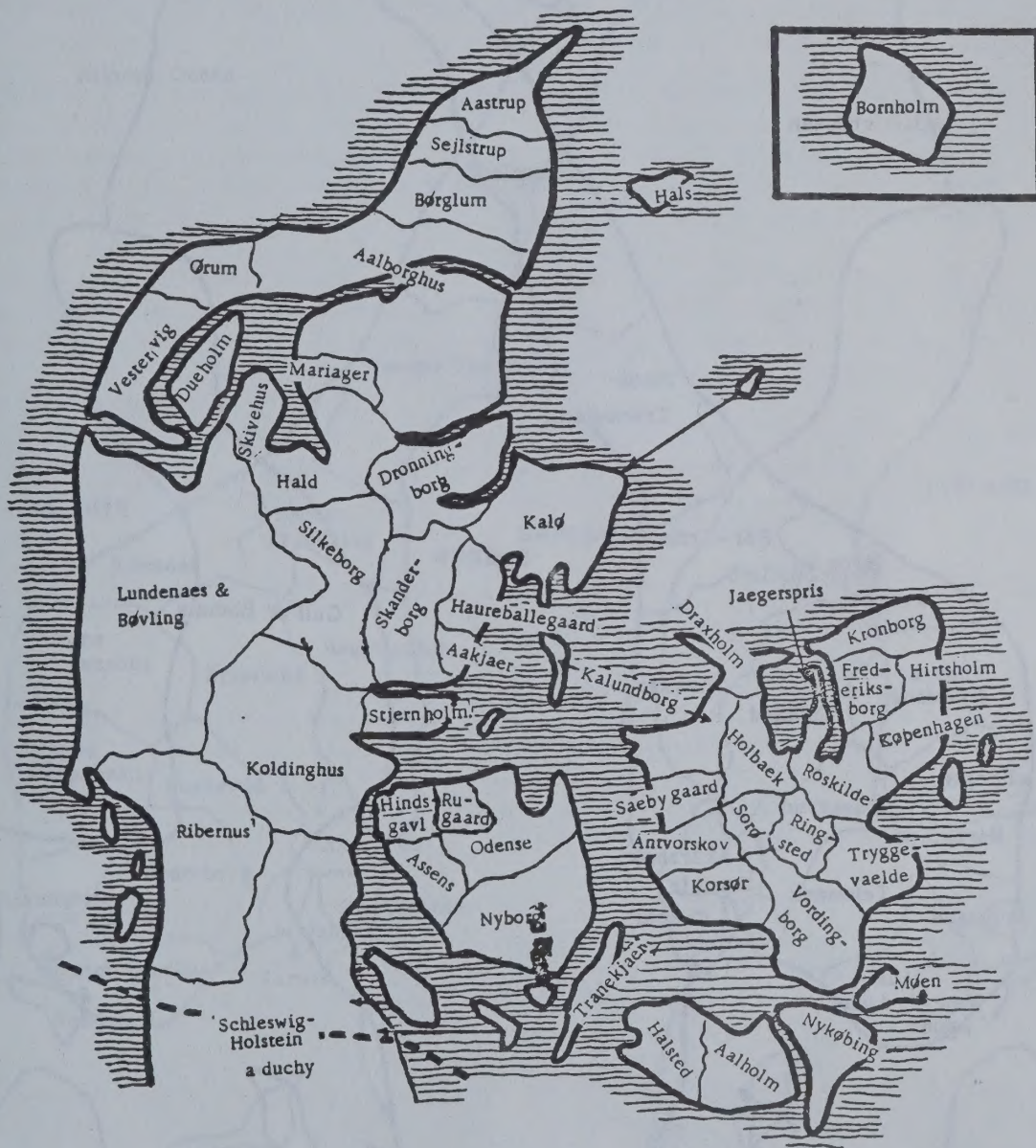
Before 1918

Akershus
Nedene
Søndre Bergenshus
Buskerud
Finnmark
Hedemarken
Søndre Bergenshus
Romsdal
Nordland
Nordre Trondhjem
Kristians
Akershus
Smaalenene
Stavanger
Nordre Bergenshus
Søndre Trondhjem
Bratsbjerg
Tromsø
Jarlsberg & Larvik
Lister & Mandal

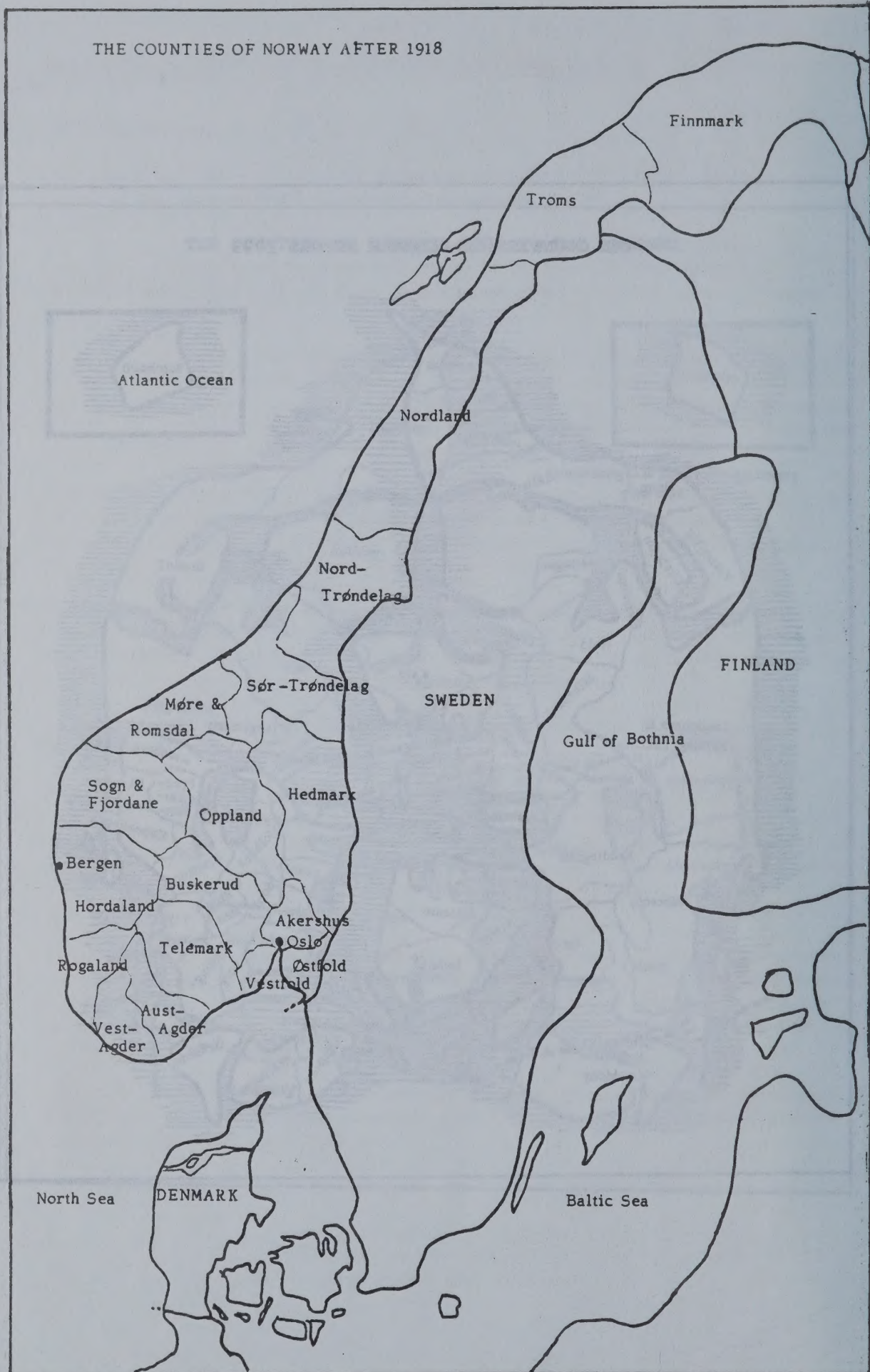
THE COUNTIES OF DENMARK 1793 TO THE PRESENT



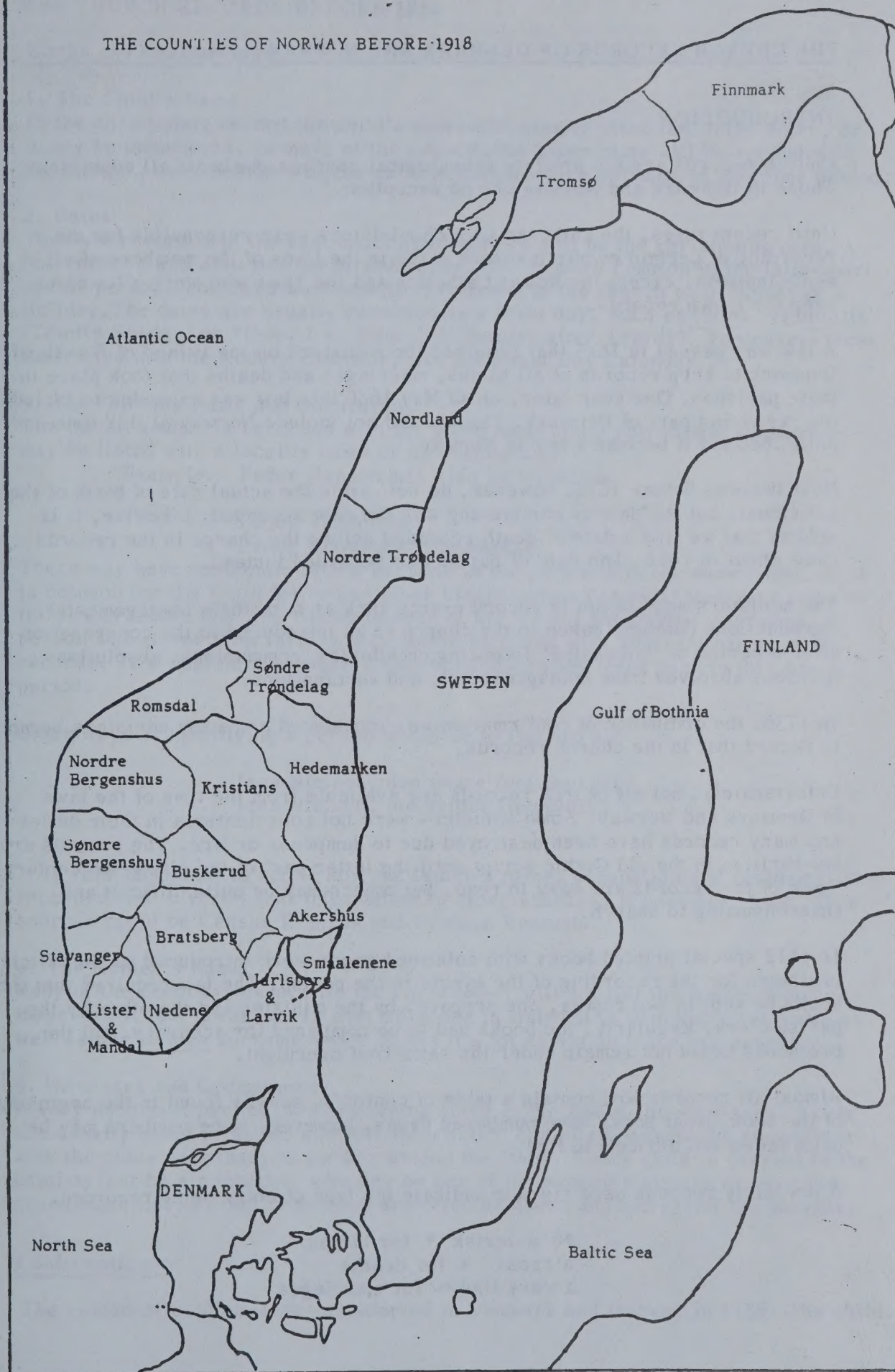
THE COUNTIES OF DENMARK BEFORE 1793



THE COUNTIES OF NORWAY AFTER 1918



THE COUNTIES OF NORWAY BEFORE 1918



THE CHURCH RECORDS OF DENMARK AND NORWAY

INTRODUCTION

Church records are top priority genealogical sources in almost all countries. Those in Denmark and Norway are no exception.

Until recent times, the Lutheran Church ministers were responsible for the recording of certain events that took place in the lives of the members of all denominations, except the Roman Catholics and the Jews who were allowed to keep their own records.

A law was passed in 1645 that required the ministers on the island of Sjaelland, Denmark to keep records of all births, marriages and deaths that took place in their parishes. One year later, on 17 May 1646 this law was expanded to include the remaining part of Denmark. The law did not include Norway at this time- not until 1688 did it become a law in Norway.

Most records before 1814, however, do not state the actual date of birth of the individual, but the date of christening was the date recorded. Likewise, it is seldom that we find a date of death recorded before the change in the records came about in 1814. The date of burial was recorded instead.

The ministers soon began to record events such as betrothals (engagements), introductions (mothers taken to the church to be introduced to the congregation after a period of "cleansing" following childbirth), communions, absolutions (persons absolved from transgressing), and vaccinations.

In 1736, the ordinance of confirmation was introduced and many ministers began to record that in the church records.

Unfortunately, not all church records are available from the time of the laws in Denmark and Norway. Some ministers were not conscientious in their duties and many records have been destroyed due to dampness or fire. The records are handwritten in the old Gothic script until the latter part of the nineteenth century. Some of the records are easy to read, but others may be quite difficult and timeconsuming to search.

In 1812 special printed books with columned pages were introduced as the official registers for the recording of the events in the parish. The law required that these books be kept in two copies, one prepared by the minister and the other by the parish clerk. Regularly, the books had to be compared for accuracy, but the two books could not remain under the same roof overnight.

Almost all records will contain a table of contents, usually found in the beginning of the book. Most books have numbered pages, however, some numbers may be quite faded and difficult to find.

A few early records used signs to indicate the type of entry being recorded:

an asterisk * for births
a cross + for deaths
a wavy line ~ for marriages

Births and Christenings:

1. The Child's Name

In the christening record the child's name will usually stand out in the entry, or it may be underlined. In many of the records the given name will be recorded in the margin. Very seldom will the child be listed with a surname in this time period.

2. Dates

The date recorded in the vast majority of entries will be the christening date. A few records will also list the birthdate, but this is more common in the latter part of this period. The child was usually christened in the church on a Sunday or a Holiday. The dates are usually recorded as a feast day, such as "Dom. Trinitatis" (Trinity Sunday) or "Dom. 1 p. Trin." (1 Sunday after Trinity). To convert these feast days into the modern calendar, use the Feast Day Calendar.

3. The Father's Name and Occupation

The father's name is recorded with the given name and a patronymic surname or may be listed with a locality name or an occupation.

Example: Peder Hansen may also be listed as:

Peder Vendelboe

Peder Skomager (Shoemaker)

There may have been quite a few persons in the parish with the same name, so it is common for the recorder to use other identification names. It was very common in Norway to use the farm names instead of the normal patronymic surnames. A person who moved from farm to farm would be listed with different names in the records. It should be remembered that very few names were used in this time period.

Other ways of identifying a person would be to list him as:

Jens Nielsen, den yngre (the younger)

Jens Nielsen, the aeldre (the older)

It is very important to notice how the father's name, occupation and residence are recorded and to verify that information in other sources, if possible. Such other sources could be Census Returns and Probate Records.

4. The Mother's Name

Many of the records, especially the early ones, will not list the mother's name. However, it is a great benefit that when she is listed it is with her given name as well as her maiden surname which makes it a lot easier to trace her ancestry.

5. Witnesses and Godmothers

A very important part of the christening entry is the list of the witnesses. These are usually close relatives and this information can often provide the researcher with the clues necessary to further extend the lines. Every child is carried to the baptism font by a godmother who may be one of the mother's sisters or even the grandmother. The other witnesses are often brothers and sisters of the parents.

Confirmations:

The custom of confirmation was adopted in Denmark and Norway in 1736. The child

is usually confirmed between the ages of 14 to 19. The records will often list the name of the child, his or her age, and the name of the father and his residence..

Marriages and Engagements:

These entries will usually contain the full name of the bride and groom, the dates of engagement (until 1799) and marriage, and the names of the sponsors or witnesses. These sponsors are often close relatives of the couple, such as the fathers or the brothers. In most cases the records will also indicate if the bride or groom is a widow or a widower.

Deaths and Burials:

Most burial entries will list the name of the deceased, the last residence, the date of the burial, and the age of the deceased. Married women are often also identified with the name of the husband, but sometimes the entry will not list the wife's name.

Example:

1745 (1 p. Trin) Jens Hansens Hustrue begravet
43 Aar gammel

(1745, 1 p. Trin, Jens Hansen's wife buried, age 43
years)

The entry for a child will normally list the given name of the child, the age, the date of the burial, and the father's name and residence. However, it is not uncommon to find entries, such as:

1761, Exaudi, Jens Hansens Barn begravet

(1761, Exaudi, Jens Hansen's child buried

If Jens Hansen had several children other information is needed before it can be determined what child died.

Introductions:

After each childbirth, the mother had to be received and introduced in the church. Most of the parish registers will contain a list of such introductions. Sometimes these records will identify the name of the mother where the actual christening entry will not. These records can also be valuable when the child died before christening and not listed in the christening records.

Communion and Absolutions:

A record of the persons to whom communion was given is often found in these early sources. There will normally also be a record of the persons to whom absolutions were given. The record will list the name of the offender, as well as a description of the offense and the date absolution is given.

Vaccinations:

In the latter part of this timeperiod we find records of children being vaccinated for smallpox. The name of the child is given, sometimes age, residence and the father's name. The name of the doctor may also be given.

Accounts and Notes:

Very seldom will we find any genealogical information in these records. They will contain accounts and notes which will pertain to the income and expenses of the parish.

THE CHURCH RECORDS AFTER 1814

Births and Christenings:

Additional information is given after the introduction of the printed forms in 1814. The child's birthdate is recorded as well as the christening date. The child's surname will also be listed; however, not usually until several decades after 1814. The father's and the mother's names are recorded and the names of the witnesses. Residences and occupations are given for the persons mentioned.

Confirmations:

These records will list the name of the person confirmed, the name, residence and occupation of the father (and often also of the mother). The age of the child; in many cases the date of birth or christening will also be recorded. Sometimes the place of birth may be added if the child was born outside the parish. The year of the confirmation will be listed on the page.

Marriages:

The full names of the bride and groom, their residences and usually their ages; also about their previous marital status, whether the bride and groom are widow or widower. Sometimes it may mention how many previous marriages they have had. The names of two sponsors or witnesses will also be given. These are usually close relatives such as the fathers, brothers, uncles, etc. Their occupations and residences will also be stated in the records.

Arrival Lists:

These lists are seldom kept up to date until approximately 1830. They contain a list of the persons moving into the parish. Usually the following information is recorded: The name of the person moving into the parish. His or her age. The name of the parish from which the person came. The name of the village or place in the new parish to which the person is moving.

Removal Lists:

Contains the same information as the arrival lists, only the parish to which the person is moving being mentioned instead of the parish from which he came.

Deaths and Burials:

These records contain both the deathdate as well as the burial date of the deceased. The deceased is identified with his full name, occupation, last residence and age. If the deceased is a child, the name, occupation and the residence of the father will be given. If a married woman is the deceased, the name, occupation and residence of the husband are recorded. Often the same information will be recorded for a widow.

General Index:

These records are supposed to be a general index of every person recorded in the parish registers of that parish, with reference to the page where a particular event is recorded. However, very few recorders kept these records the way it was intended.

Please note: The records of Norway changed somewhat after the completion of the first registers due to the separation of Norway and Denmark. However, the basic information will be found in the new Norwegian registers.

FOR SAMPLES OF THE VARIOUS CHURCH RECORDS WITH TRANSLATIONS:

SEE THE FIRST TWO VOLUMES OF THIS MANUAL.

CENSUS RETURNS

The Danish and the Norwegian Census Returns are extremely valuable tools in genealogical research. Even the earliest census returns contain information which normally are not found in returns in other countries until a much later time period.

The first national census of genealogical value in Denmark was taken in 1787, and is complete for the whole country with the exception of a little island. The three southern counties of Jylland (Jutland) were not part of the kingdom at that time but belonged to the Duchy, Schleswig-Holstein; consequently, they were not included in the 1787 census. The next census was taken in 1801, and this included Norway and the Duchy, Schleswig-Holstein (1803). This census was the first census that included the whole population of these areas.

There were not a national census return in Denmark between 1801 and 1834, but from that year on there were not more than 10 years between the returns. The situation in Norway was a little different, the next census after the 1801 was not until 1865 (National Census). The following was in 1875.

All the national census returns from 1787 will list all the persons with their full name, age and relationship to the head of the house. This information is particularly helpful in Danish research since so many people in that country were known by the same name.

Some ecclesiastical or local census returns were taken in a few parishes and cities. Some of these are found with the parish registers. A list of the special city census returns of Denmark is found in this section.

CENSUS ARRANGEMENTS

DENMARK:

Copenhagen City is listed first in the census returns, followed by the other incorporated cities. The rural areas are listed under the county (Amt), district (Herred), and parish (Sogn).

To obtain the proper district and county of a certain parish, consult the guidebook: Genealogical Guidebook & Atlas of Denmark or a Danish Postal Guide printed prior to 1970.

NORWAY:

In the rural areas it is necessary to know the county (Fylke or Amt), the head parish and the parish (Sogn). The Genealogical Guidebook & Atlas of Norway will be a help to determine this information.

The farm register (Norges Matrikkel) of 1887 (printed in 1890) gives the old as well as the new serial numbers of the farms in Norway, and is, therefore an excellent key to the 1865, 1875 and later census returns. This source is available at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

More easily accessible for locating many places (but not all small places) is Norsk Stedfortegnelse (The Postal guide for Norway). This book is also available at the Genealogical Society in Utah. (G.S. Library call #: 914.81 H36n).

CONTENTS OF THE DANISH AND NORWEGIAN CENSUS RETURNS

	DANISH	1787	1801	1834	1840	1845	1850
	NORWEGIAN		1801				
NAME OF VILLAGE, FARM OR STREET		X	X	X	X	X	X
NAMES OF ALL RESIDENTS		X	X	X	X	X	X
RELATIONSHIPS		X	X	X	X	X	X
AGES		X	X	X	X	X	X
DATE OF BIRTH							
PLACE OF BIRTH						X	X
TITLES AND OCCUPATIONS		X	X	X	X	X	X
PHYSICAL & MENTAL CONDITIONS							
HOW OFTEN MARRIED		X	X				
RELIGION							X
YEAR OF DEATH OF SPOUSE							
NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN							
NUMBER OF DECEASED CHILDREN							
IF THE CHILDREN ARE OF FIRST OR SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE		X	X				
IF THE CHILDREN ARE ILLEGITIMATE		X	X				
YEAR OF MARRIAGE							
IF THE CENSUS IS AVAILABLE AT THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY		X		X	X	X	X
		14					

CONTENTS OF THE DANISH AND NORWEGIAN CENSUS RETURNS

	DANISH	1855	1860		1870		1880
	NORWEGIAN			1865		1875	
NAME OF VILLAGE, FARM OR STREET	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAMES OF ALL RESIDENTS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
RELATIONSHIPS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
AGES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DATE OF BIRTH						year	
PLACE OF BIRTH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TITLES AND OCCUPATIONS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
PHYSICAL & MENTAL CONDITIONS	X	X			X		X
HOW OFTEN MARRIED							
RELIGION	X	X			X		X
YEAR OF DEATH OF SPOUSE							
NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN							
NUMBER OF DECEASED CHILDREN							
IF THE CHILDREN ARE OF FIRST OR SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE							
IF THE CHILDREN ARE ILLEGITIMATE							
YEAR OF MARRIAGE							
IF THE CENSUS IS AVAILABLE AT THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	15						

CONTENTS OF THE DANISH AND NORWEGIAN CENSUS RETURNS

	DANISH	1890			1901	1906	1911
	NORWEGIAN		1891	1900			
NAME OF VILLAGE, FARM OR STREET	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAMES OF ALL RESIDENTS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
RELATIONSHIPS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
AGES	X						
DATE OF BIRTH		Year	Year		X	X	X
PLACE OF BIRTH	X	X	X	X	X		
TITLES AND OCCUPATIONS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
PHYSICAL & MENTAL CONDITIONS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HOW OFTEN MARRIED							
RELIGION	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
YEAR OF DEATH OF SPOUSE						X	
NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN						X	
NUMBER OF DECEASED CHILDREN						X	
IF THE CHILDREN ARE OF FIRST OR SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE							
IF THE CHILDREN ARE ILLEGITIMATE							
YEAR OF MARRIAGE						X	
IF THE CENSUS IS AVAILABLE AT THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY	X		X	X	X	X	X
		16					

CONTENTS OF SOUTH JUTLAND (SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN) CENSUS RETURNS

	1803	1835	1840	1845	1855	1860
NAME OF VILLAGE, FARM OR STREET	X	X	X	X	X	X
NAMES OF ALL RESIDENTS	X	X	X	X	X	X
RELATIONSHIPS	X	X	X	X	X	X
AGES	X	X	X	X	X	X
DATE OF BIRTH						
PLACE OF BIRTH				X	X	X
TITLES AND OCCUPATIONS	X	X	X	X	X	X
PHYSICAL & MENTAL CONDITIONS					X	X
HOW OFTEN MARRIED	X					
RELIGION					X	X
YEAR OF DEATH OF SPOUSE						
NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN						
NUMBER OF DECEASED CHILDREN						
IF THE CHILDREN ARE OF FIRST OR SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE	X					
IF THE CHILDREN ARE ILLEGITIMATE	X					
YEAR OF MARRIAGE						
IF THE CENSUS IS AVAILABLE AT THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY	X	X	X	X	X	X
	17					

SPECIAL DANISH CITY CENSUS RETURNS:

Some of the Danish cities had special census returns independently of those taken on a national basis.

PERIOD COVERED

CITY

1787

Aarhus Dist. 1

1787

Aarhus Dist. 2

1787

Aarhus Dist. 3

1818

Aalborg

1827-1860

Frederikshavn

1727-1855

Hobro

1769-1824

Horsens

1777, 1801

Fredericia

1820-1832

Grenaa

1787-1850

Holstebro

1818-1860

Nibe

1769-1860

Ribe

1726-1860

Randers

1801-1860

Skagen

1860

Vejle

1769-1860

Viborg

1885

Copenhagen

1895

Copenhagen

ALPHABETICAL LISTS OF STREETS INCOPENHAGEN CITY AND THE DISTRICT
IN WHICH THEY BELONGED IN THE EARLY CENSUS RETURNS:

STREET	DISTRICT	STREET	DISTRICT
A		D	
Aabenraa	Rosenborg	David Skolemesters gaard	Købmager
Admiralgade	Øster Kvarter	Diderich Badchers gang	Købmager
Adelgade, ny	St. Annæ Vester	Dronningensgade	Christianshavn
Amager Torv	Strand & Frimands	Dronningengs brede & tværgade	St. Annæ, Øster & Vester
Amagerstræde	Christianshavn		
Amaliagade	St. Annæ, Øster		
Amalienborg Torv	St. Annæ, Øster		
Alleen ved Garnisions K.	St. Annæ, Øster	Dybengsgade	Øster
Anthonistræde	Købmager		
Adelgaden, ny og i gangen	St. Annæ, Øster	E	
Annagade, Sct.	St. Annæ, Øster	Endeløvstræde	Snarens
B			
Baadsmandsstræde	Christianshavn	F	
Badstuestræde	Snarens	Farvergade	Vester
Bag Volden	Rosenborg	Fortunstræde	Øster
Bag Hovedvagten	Købmager	Fyrens Gang	Vester
Bag Børsen og ny Børs	Strand	Færgestræde Lille	Øster
Balsamgaden	St. Annæ, Vester	Færgestræde Store	Øster & Strand
Boldhusgaden	Øster	Fiolstræde	Klædebo
Borregaden og i gangen	St. Annæ, Vester	Frederichsborggade	Vester & Klædebo
Brolæggerstræde	Snarens	Frederiksholm Kanal	Vester
Brygger Længden	St. Annæ, Vester	Frederiksholm Torv	St. Annæ, Øster
Brøndstræde og Bag Volden	Rosenborg	Frue Kirkegaard	Klædebo
Børsen, bag det nye	Strand		
C		G	
Cadetgaden	St. Annæ, Øster & Vester	Gaasegaden	Vester
Canalen	Snarens, Strand & St. Annæ, Øster	Gl. Myndt og i Gangen	Købmager & Snarens
Cannikstræde Store og Lille	Klædebo	Gl. Torv	Vester, Nørre
Canine Længden	St. Annæ, Vester	Gothersgade	Købmager, Rosenborg & St. Annæ, Øster
Clareboderne	Købmager & Rosenborg	Grønnegade og i Gangen	Købmager & St. Annæ, Vester
Closterstræde	Frimands	Grønland i mod	St. Annæ, Vester
Chr. Bernikowstræde	Købmager	Giertrudsstræde St.	Klædebo & Rosenborg
Compagnistræde	Snarens	Graabrødre Torv	Frimands

STREET	DISTRICT	STREET	DISTRICT
H		Løngangsstræde	Vester
Helliggeistes		Løvstræde	Frimands
Stræde, Store & Lille	Frimands		
Helsingørgade	St. Annæ, Vester	M	
Heste-Møllestræde	Vester		
Hjorte Længen	St. Annæ, Vester	Magsstræde	Snarens
Holmens Revier	Øster	Michel Bryggersgade	Vester
Holmshuse se Langbrogade	Christianshavn	Myndtesgade	Købmager, Rosenberg
Hovedvagten, bag	Købmager	Myndten, gl.	Købmager
Hoppens Længde	St. Annæ, Vester		
Hummergade	Øster	N	
Hydskensstræde	Strand		
Hoybrostræde	Strand	Naboløs	Snarens
		Nellike Gangen	Øster
K		Nicolai Kirkegaard	Øster
Kattesundet	Vester	Norgesgade	St. Annæ, Øster
Købmagergade	Frimands & Købmager	Ny Canal	St. Annæ, Øster
Købmagergade		Ny Børs	Strand
Store & Lille	Klædebo & Rosenberg	Ny Broe	Snarens
Kongens Torv	Købmager, St. Annæ, & Vester	Nygade	Snarens
Kongensgade	Købmager, St. Annæ, & Vester	Ny Torv	Snarens & Vester
Kongensgade Lille	Øster	Norregade, Øster	Nørre & Vester
Knabrostræde		Nørreport, gl.	Nørre & Vester
Store & Lille	Snarens	Nørre Torv	Nørre, Vester & Rosenberg
Klædeboderne	Snarens & Klædebo	Nørrevold	Nørre
Klærkegade	St. Annæ, Vester	O	
Kongensgade i Kalleboderne	St. Annæ, Vester	Overgaden neden Vandet	Christianshavn
Kirkestræde Store & Lille	Øster	Overgaden oven Vandet	Christianshavn
Klosterstræde	Frimands		
Kokkegaden	Frimands	P	
Kokkegaden i Nyboder	St. Annæ, Vester		
Kongensgade paa		Peder Madsens gang	Købmager
Christianshavn	Christianshavn	Peder Hvidtfelds-Stræde &	
Krusemyntegade	St. Annæ, Vester	Gade	Klædebo
		Peder Rodes Gang	Øster
L		Pedersstræde, St.	Nørre
Lars Bjornstræde	Nørre	Pilestræde	Købmager
Store & Lille	Nørre	Pistolstræde	Købmager
Lars Leyestræde	Rosenborg	Prinsensgade	St. Annæ, Vester
Landmærket	Christianshavn	Prinsensgade	Christianshavn
Langebrogade	Vester	Pustervig	Rosenborg
Lavendelstræde	Øster		
Lakesgade	Strand		
Læderstræde			

STREET	DISTRICT	STREET	DISTRICT
Q			
Qvæsthusgaden	St. Annæ, Øster	Torvegade, Store & Lille Trompetergangen Tugthus-Porten Tværstrædet	Christianshavn Frimands Frimands Frimands
R			
Raadhusstræde	Snarens, Vester	U	
Reignegade	Købmager	Ulfeldtsplads	
Rogensgade	St. Annæ, Vester	se Graabrødre	
Rosengaden	St. Annæ, Vester	Torv	Frimands
Rosenborggade	Klædebo, Rosenborg	Ulkegade	Øster
Rosengaarden	Klædebo		
S		V	
Skoubogaden	Snarens, Frimands	Vandkunsten	Vester
Silkegaden	Købmager	Vandmøllestræde	Snarens, Vester
Skindergade	Frimands, Klædebo	Vestergade	Vester, Nørre
Skidenstræde	Frimands, Klædebo		
Skolemesterlængen den nordlige ende af Hjortelæn- gen	St. Annæ, Vester	Vestervold	Vester, Nørre
Slippen	Rosenborg	Vestergade, ny	Vester, Øster
Slotsholm	Strand	Vingaardstræde	Øster
Sluttergade	Vester	Vimmelskaftet	Snarens, Frimands
Smedens Gang.	Øster	Vognmagergade	Rosenborg
Snarregaden	Snarens	Voldgade og ud til Volden ved Nørreport	Christianshavn & Klædebo
Sophiegade	Christianshavn		
Springgade	Rosenborg	Ø	
Stenkulgade	St. Annæ, Vester	Østergade	Øster & Købmager
Strandstræde			
Store & Lille	St. Annæ, Øster		
Strandgaden	Christianshavn		
Stranden, ved	Øster, Strand		
Stormgade	Vester		
Stokhuslængen	St. Annæ, Vester		
Studiestræde	Nørre		
Svaladergaarden	Øster		
Syndervold	Vester		
Syndervoldstræde	Christianshavn		
Større Stræde	Øster		
Sølvgade	St. Annæ, Vester		
T			
Teilgaardsstræde	Nørre		
Toldbodgade & Vejen	St. Annæ, Øster		
Tornebuskegade	Klædebo, Rosenborg		
Torvet, paa	Christianshavn		

MISSING DANISH CENSUS RETURNS:

- 1787 Christian's Island, Bornholm County.
- 1801 Frederiksborg Slotsogn (parish), Frederiksborg County.
Part of Fuglslev parish, Randers County.
- 1834 All of Copenhagen City, except for Sct. Annae Øster and Vester Districts.
- 1840 Cities of Faaborg, Frederikshavn, Frederikssund, Grenaa, Hobro, Korsør, Mariager, Middelfart, Nykøbing Mors, Nysted, Praestø, Roskilde, Rudkøbing, Rødby, Sorø, Stubbekøbing, Svanneke, and Varde.
Husby and Sønder Nisum parishes in Ringkøbing County.
Laesø Island in Hjørring County.
Mors Island in Thisted County.
- 1845 Sigerslev parish in Frederiksborg county.
Øster Ulslev and Godsted parishes in Maribo county.
Jordrup and Lejrskov parishes in Ribe county.
Husby and Sønder Nisum parishes in Ringkøbing county.
- 1850 Kvaerndrup parish in Svendborg county.
Storby and Hornum parishes in Vejle county.
- 1880 City of Hobro.
Brønshøj parish in Copenhagen county.
- 1890 Gentofte parish in Copenhagen county.

MISSING CENSUS RETURNS FROM SØNDERJYLLAND (SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN):

- 1803 All except: AErø Island, Helgoland, Aabenraa and Flensborg cities.
The eight parishes in Tyrstrup district in Vejle county, Christiansfeld in Haderslev county, Gram and Hvidding districts in Haderslev county, Skodborg parish in Haderslev county. Lundtofte parish in Tønder county.
- 1835 Christiansfeld, Gram, Hvidding and Haderslev districts in Haderslev county.
- 1845 Haderslev county except for Gram, Hvidding, Nørre Rangstrup and Tyrstrup districts.
- 1855 Cities: Haderslev, Frederikstad, Counties of Aabenraa-Sønderborg, Husum, Løgumkloster and Tønder. Ejersted and Kappel (small places).
- 1860 Cities: Eckernførde, Frederikstad, Schleswig and Fredriksort.
Femern with town Burg.

INTRODUCTION

The probate records of Norway are one of the three most vital genealogical sources in the country. To do effective genealogical research a researcher must have a basic knowledge of these records and know how to use them.

Some of the probate administrations dates back as early as around 1660, however, it was not until the law of 1685 that the procedures for the division of a deceased person's property was established on a firm basis. Many records are preserved from that time period.

In the latter part of the seventeenth century, the scribe (Sorenskriver) in the office of the "fogd" was given the responsibility of taking care of the legal division of an inheritance or the settlement of an estate, and to record it. The Norwegian law required that the death of a person must be reported to the district official within a few days for the purpose of sealing the estate of the deceased. By 1690, the district judge was the administrator in probate matters in the counties. In the cities this jurisdiction was given to the city judge.

PROBATE JURISDICTIONS

The probate jurisdictions of Norway are a lot simpler than the jurisdictions found in Denmark in the rural areas. The reason for this is the different conditions under which the farmers lived. In Denmark, the farmers lived under the law of "Stavnsbaandet" (Compulsatory Residence). They did not own their land or farms, but leased them from the owners of the large land estates who also had jurisdiction in the administrations of probates.

The Norwegian farmers did not live under the same law. They enjoyed much better circumstances which also resulted in a far less complicated probate jurisdiction system.

In searching the records for the proper probate administration a researcher must first find the correct jurisdiction. Following is a list of the probate districts, and the individual cities having their own probate jurisdiction before 1850:

Akershus County:

Aker

Kristiania (later known as Oslo)

Follo

Øvre Romerike... after 1842 divided into two districts:

1. Nes 2. Eidsvold

Nedre Romerike
Odal (before 1762 see Hedmark district)

Aust Agder County:

Nedenesafter 1824 divided into two districts:
1. Østre Nedenes 2. Vestre Nedenes

Raabygdelaget .. after 1824 divided into two districts:
1. Østre Raabygdelaget 2. Vestre Raabygdelaget

Arendal & Risør... after 1778 divided into two districts:
1. Arendal 2. Risør

Buskerud County:

Numedal & Sandsvaer
Kongsberg
Eiker, Modum & Sigdal
Hallingdal and Ringerike...in 1823 divided into two districts:
1. Hallingdal 2. Ringerike

Lier, Røyken and Hurum
Bragernes and Stromsø (after 1811 together with Drammen)
Drammen (from 1811)

Hedmark County:

Hedmark.... after 1777 divided into two districts:
1. Nord-Hedmark 2. Sor-Hedmark
Østerdal.....after 1823 divided into two districts:
1. Nord-Østerdal 2. Sor-Østerdal
Odal..before 1762 see also Øvre Romerike in Akershus county
Solør and Østerdal until 1774
Solør and Odal

Hordaland County:

Sunnhorland
Midhorland
Bergen
Voss and Hardanger
Nordhorland

Møre and Romsdal County:

Søndre Sunnmøre
Romsdal
Nordre Sunnmøre

Nordmøre

Molde...before 1742 see under Trondheim and Romsdal

Kristiansund... before 1742 see under Trondheim and Nordmøre

Nordland County:

Helgeland

Salten

Lofoten and Vesteraalen

Nord Trøndelag County:

Stjør and Verdal

Inderøy

Namdal

Oppland County:

Nordre Gudbrandsdal.....until 1698

Søndre Gudbrandsdal.....until 1698

Nordre and Søndre Gudbrandsdal....1698-1731

Nord Gudbrandsdal.....from 1732

Sør Gudbrandsdal..... from 1732

Hadeland, Land and Valdres

in 1786 divided into two districts:

1. Hadeland and Land 2. Valdres

Østfold County:

Rakkestad

Fredrikstad

Moss city

Heggen and Frøland

Halden

Moss district

Idd and Marker

Tune

Rogaland County:

Stavanger

Ryfulke

Karmsund

Jaeren and Dalene

Sogn and Fjordane County:

Yttre Sogn (parish)

Sunnfjord

Indre Sogn (parish)

Nordfjord

Sør Trøndelag County:

Fosen
Gauldal
Trondheim
Orkdal
Strinda and Selbu

Telemark County:

Øvre Telemark
Nedre Telemark
Bamle... Østre Porsgrunn divided from Bamle in 1809
Skien and Porsgrunn

Troms County:

Senja
Troms
Finnmark

Vest Agder County:

Lister.....in 1809 divided into two districts:
1. Lyngdal 2. Flekkefjord. Fedde and Bakke added
in 1839

Vestfold County:

Larvik land district
Larvik and Sandefjord
Nord Jarlsberg
Sør Jarlsberg
Tønsberg and Holmestrand
Tønsberg
Holmestrand

HOW TO LOCATE THE RECORDS

Locate the annex parish or the head parish on the list of parishes appearing in the Genealogical Guidebook and Atlas of Norway (by Smith and Thomsen). The probate district for each parish as of 1801 will be found in the typescript -1801 Census Index of Norway (Genealogical Society Call No.: Reg.848.1 X2Si).

NATURE AND CONTENTS OF THE PROBATE RECORDS

According to the law of 1685 which was in force until 1814, the sequence of the distribution of the property of a deceased person is as follows:

The next of kin was to report to the court the death of the deceased.

The property was normally divided this way: 50% to the surviving spouse and the remaining 50% to the children. The male children received twice as much as the female children. If there were no spouse or children the estate would revert to the closest relatives.

The law required that children under the age of 25 be represented by a guardian; By the mother's death, the father was appointed. By the father's death, one of the brothers of the children (if over the age of 25) was appointed. The next in line was the paternal grandfather, then the maternal grandfather. If they were not alive the closest male relative on the father's side and if there were none alive on that side the closest male relative on the mother's side.

The following is a list of the types of information usually found in records of probate administrations:

1. The full name of the deceased
2. The last place of residence of the deceased
3. The heirs of the deceased and their places of residence
4. The ages of the deceased children (heirs)
5. The names of the husbands of the female heirs
6. The guardians for the children, their residence and relationship to the family
7. The guardian for the widow, his residence and relationship to the family
8. An inventory of the estate

THE VALUE OF THE PROBATE RECORDS

There are no genealogical records which better can provide proof of relationship than the probate record. Since specific relationships are mentioned in this source every researcher will want to use them in his research efforts, especially in the period before the census returns. It is often the only way to obtain information needed to extend the lines.

Many of the probate records are indexed which also can assist in further extending the ancestral lines. Most of the population remained in the general area in which they were born. Knowing the patronymic surname of an individual is often enough to help in locating a probate administration after the father in the index.

Several probate administrations for different persons with the same given name may have to be searched before the correct one is found. Knowing the name customs in regards to the daughters may also assist in locating a probate for the mother of an individual. The first two daughters are often named after their grandmothers.

NATURE AND CONTENTS OF THE PROBATE RECORDS

According to the law of 1803 which was in force until 1812, the distribution of the property of a deceased person was as follows:

The first of the heirs was the eldest son, and if he died before the father, the property was divided among his sons. If there were no sons, the property was divided among the daughters. If there were no daughters, the property was divided among the next of kin.

The law regarding the children under the age of 21 was changed by a statute in 1812. By the mother's death, the father was appointed guardian of the children. If the mother died, the father was appointed guardian. If the father died, the mother was appointed guardian. If both parents died, the children were placed in the custody of a relative or a friend. If no relative or friend was found, the children were placed in the custody of the state.

1. The full name of the deceased.
2. The last place of residence of the deceased.
3. The heirs of the deceased and their place of residence.
4. The age of the deceased.
5. The names of the witnesses.
6. The signature of the deceased.
7. The signature of the witnesses.
8. The date of the death.

THE VALUE OF THE PROBATE RECORDS

There are no genealogical records which better can provide proof of relationship than the probate records. Since the relationships are mentioned in the records, every researcher will want to use them in his search effort. Especially in the period before the census records, it is often the only way to obtain information needed to extend the line.

Many of the probate records are indexed and filed in alphabetical order. This makes it easy to find the records of a particular family. However, the probate records are often filed in chronological order. This makes it easy to find the records of a particular year.

THE PROBATE RECORDS OF DENMARK

INTRODUCTION

Records involving the legal transfer of property upon the death of its owner exist in practically every country. These records of probate and administration of estates often give relationships and other important genealogical data. Fortunately many of these records are preserved for Denmark and are available almost as early as the parish registers.

The three most common types of probate records in Denmark, and those with which this chapter is concerned, are:

- (a) Administrations of estates (skifteprotokollerne)¹
- (b) Guardianship supervisions (overformynderi protokollerne)
- (c) Wills (testamenter)

Before discussing these records and what they contain, however, we shall first look briefly at the jurisdictions within which these records have been created. This information is critical to the genealogist who has need to locate and use the the records.

¹At various times these administrations have been referred to as wills intestate but that expression is actually a contradiction of terms since intestate indicates the non-existence of a valid will at the time of death. The nature of these administrations is discussed in this chapter.

PROBATE JURISDICTIONS

The probate jurisdictions of Denmark can be divided into three main areas:

- (a) Copenhagen City (København)
- (b) Other cities (købstæderne)
- (c) Rural areas (paa landet)

In Copenhagen there are three important time periods which we must consider, and in the rural areas we must consider both the time periods and the nature of the jurisdictional control under which our ancestors lived.

COPENHAGEN CITY

A. Before 1771:

PROBATE COURT	PERSONS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION	PERIOD COVERED	CALENDAR (INDEX) AVAILABLE	RECORDS AVAILABILITY
<i>Byretten</i> or <i>Magistratens Skiftekommission</i> (city court)	The common citizens of the city	1709, 1711-1712, 1717-1772	Sjælland Provincial Archives, Copenhagen; on (first) microfilm	Sjælland Provincial Archives, Copenhagen; on film (GS)
<i>Borgretten</i> (civil court)	Lower civil officials and employees	1682-1771	On (first) microfilm	Sjælland Provincial Archives, Copenhagen; on film (GS)
<i>Generalauditøren</i> (military court) (auditor-general)	Commissioned officers of the army	1719-1863	National Archives (not filmed)	National Archives, Copenhagen; on film (GS)
<i>Regimentsauditørerne</i> (military court) (regiment-auditors)	Enlisted men in the army	Information not available	Information not available	Hærens Arkiv, Copenhagen;
<i>Hofretten</i> (royal court)	Higher civil officials	1679-1771	Sjælland Provincial Archives, Copenhagen; on (first) microfilm	Sjælland Provincial Archives, Copenhagen; on film (GS)

PROBATE COURT	PERSONS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION	PERIOD COVERED	CALENDAR (INDEX) AVAILABLE	RECORDS AVAILABILITY
<i>Søetatens General-Auditor</i> (military court) (navy's general-auditor)	Naval officers with rank of captain or higher	1683-1647, 1659-1771	National Archives	National Archives, Copenhagen;
<i>Underadmiralitetstrettens Præsident (Auditøren)</i> (military court) (under-admiralty)	Naval noncommis- sioned officers and officers with rank lower than captain	1670-1779		National Archives, Copenhagen; on film (GS)
<i>Universitetets (Konsistoriums) Skiftejurisdiktion</i> (University court)	University faculty, students, and person- nel; their widows and children	.....	.....	Almost all records have been lost; few available at Archives of the Uni- versity of Copenhagen
<i>Den gejstlige Skiftejurisdiktion</i> (Ecclesiastical court)	The clergy, parish clerks, and personnel working with the clergy (including churches at the royal palaces in Hillerød and Fredensborg)	1724-1777		Sjælland Provincial Archives, Copenhagen
<i>Vajsenhusets Skiftejurisdiktion</i> (The orphan-house court)	Personnel at the orphan-house	.....	.....	All records lost
<i>Frederiks Hospitals Skiftejurisdiktion</i> (Frederik's Hospital probate jurisdiction)	Personnel at the hospital	.....	.....	All records lost
<i>Det Asiatiske og det Vestindisk- Guineiske Kompagnis Skifte- jurisdiktion etc.</i> (The Asiatic and the West India- Guinea Company's probate jurisdiction) etc.	Employees of the company in Copen- hagen City and the colonies (check, also, the city court)	1712-1890		National Archives, Copenhagen
<i>Jødernes Skiftejurisdiktion</i> (Jewish probate jurisdiction)	Members of the Jewish faith	1760-1814 (In Hebrew prior to 1805)		Sjælland Provincial Archives, Copenhagen

B. 1771-1859:

During this period there were two courts that had probate jurisdictions in the city of Copenhagen:

(a) Between 1771 and 1803, the Hof-og Stadstretten (Royal and City Court)

(b) Between 1804 and 1859, the Lands-Over-samt Hof-og Stadsrettens Skiftekommis-sion (Provincial--with Royal and City Courts Administration Commission). All of the records, however, are located in the Sjaelland Provincial Archives, Copenhagen, and are on microfilm at the Genealogical Society. For the period between 1771 and 1798 there is an index at the end of each book, but, for the period 1798-1853, there is one comprehensive index. Even though there were not separate courts during this period, the records of probate and administration for different social classes were kept in separate books. There were nine different social classes for which separate books were kept:

1. Higher civil officials and commissioned officers of the armed services
2. Other civil officials, employees and personnel at the royal theater, secretaries, bookkeepers, head clerks, clerks, etc.
3. The clergy, professors, students, and all other persons working for the schools, the hospitals, and the church
4. Citizens of higher reputation and wealth, such as money dealers and bankers
5. Artists, tradesmen, journeymen, apprentices, etc.
6. Persons of no means
7. Servants
8. Enlisted men of the navy and persons in the merchant marines, such as mates and sailors
9. Enlisted men of the army

In the index after 1798, there is a reference to social class (by number), volume, and page.

C. 1860 and later:

The records from 1860 through 1880 are available for public use at the Sjaelland Provincial Archives, Copenhagen. The records after 1880 are not yet available except by special permission. It is also important to note that the number of social classes was reduced to six in 1860. This was accomplished by combining those persons in Class 3 (clergy, professors, students, and all other persons working for the schools, the hospitals, and the church) with Class 2 (minor civil officials, employees and personnel of the royal theater, secretaries, bookkeepers, head clerks, clerks, etc.); and by combining Classes 7 (servants), 8 (enlisted men of the navy, persons in the merchant marines), and 9 (enlisted men in the army) into a new Class 3.

OTHER CITIES

Except in Copenhagen, probate jurisdiction of the cities was under the direction of city officials from about 1400 until 1919 when it was made the responsibility of the underrets dommer (local judge). Since there is usually only one probate jurisdiction for residents of each city, there is seldom any problem in locating the desired records, but we will discuss that later. Prior to about 1816 the clergy and persons working with the clergy and with the schools (plus their wives and families) had special probate courts in many of the cities under the jurisdiction of the district dean; a handful of cities had some special probate jurisdictions.²

RURAL AREAS

There are four main types of probate jurisdictions in rural areas, depending on the time period and the nature of the jurisdictional control:

A. Godser--The probate jurisdictions of the private land estates or manors.

Because of the old system of making feudal land grants only to a favored few, the jurisdiction for probate and administration of estates of the vast majority of the rural populace of Denmark was, for many years, the responsibility of the owners of the manors from whom the tenant farmers leased their lands. Further, the law of 1733 (Stavnsbaandet) gave these feudal land owners almost absolute control over their lessees. Within a few years after that law was abolished in 1788, many farmers were brought under the jurisdiction of the herreder (or districts) so far as probate and administration of their estates were concerned. Many of the feudal landlords, however, continued to exercise jurisdiction until as late as 1817.

After 1817 only owners of the largest feudal estates retained their jurisdiction, and with a few exceptions, these were discontinued by law on 21 April 1850.³

B. Amt og Amtstue-- The probate jurisdictions of the counties.

All those persons who were not under the jurisdiction of the Godser (the land estates or manors) or the Rytterdistrikter (the cavalry districts) fell under the county jurisdiction. This included such people as the feudal landlords themselves,

²Those cities with special probate jurisdiction, and the names of those jurisdictions, were:

- (a) Horsens--the Russian princely court, from 1781
- (b) Helsingør--"Øresund" [the sound] customs office, 1693-1815;
- (c) Fredericia--Jewish, 1736-1814

³Those exceptional land owners who continued to exercise jurisdiction over their lease holders after 1850 were the university in Copenhagen City and several hospitals, institutions, and cathedrals (such as Roskilde and Aarhus cathedrals) which owned land estates all over Denmark, apparently given to them to provide financial support.

farm owners, etc. By Royal decree of 4 September 1793, most of these probate jurisdictions were transferred to the herreder (districts).

C. Rytterdistrikter--The probate jurisdictions of the cavalry districts.

Beginning about 1670 the new national cavalry regiments were assigned a number of royal land estates in order to provide necessary financial support. By 1695 there were ten cavalry land estate districts--three in Sjaelland, two in Fyn, and five in Jylland. Between 1718 and 1720 the number of these cavalry districts was increased to twelve. Each district was named for the county or province in which it was established. From about 1718 the cavalry districts were as follows:

<u>Sjaelland</u> :	Frederiksborg	<u>Lolland, Falster and Møen</u> :	Lolland
	Kronborg		Falster
	København (Copenhagen)	<u>Fyn</u> :	Odense or Fyn
	Vordingborg	<u>Jylland</u> :	Koldinghus
	Ringsted or Tryggevaelde		Skanderborg
	Antvorskov		Dronningborg

Between 1760 and 1770 many of the cavalry district were discontinued and their land estates sold.

D. Herrederne--The probate jurisdictions of the districts

These probate records are mostly for the period 1793 to 1919. They took the place of many of the other rural jurisdictions after the latter were abolished or diminished. In 1919 responsibility for the probate and administration of estates was given to the underrets dommer (local judge).

Prior to 5 December 1806 the clergy and those who worked with the clergy and with the schools (plus their wives and families) were under the jurisdiction of special district probate courts called the Herreds Provsti (deanery). Some of these continued several years later.

There were also subdivisions of probate jurisdictions in the rural areas identified as birker. These had basically the same function as the herreder and should be considered when there are no probate records for a herred jurisdiction.

NATURE AND CONTENT OF PROBATE RECORDS

ADMINISTRATIONS OF ESTATES (Skifteprotokollerne)

The Danish Law of King Christian V (Kong Christian V's Danske Lov) of 1683 formed the basis for the present Danish probate system. That law provided, among other things, that:

1. Immediately following the death of a person who was survived either by minor children, absent heirs, or no heirs at all, notification of the death was to be given to the authorities.

2. The probate document was to list the debts and assets of the estate and the settlement among the heirs (i.e., the final distribution). This document was to be signed by the heirs (or their guardians) and by the court officials.

3. The surviving spouse could not remarry before an administration of the deceased spouse's part of the estate had been completed.

4. The authorities responsible for supervising the administration of estates and other probate matters were:

(a) In the cities: the mayor, city council, city clerks and the byfoged (the king's representative).

(b) In rural areas: the county officials (amtmand), the lords of the manors (godsejerne), land estate owners, or the district officials (i.e., herreds fogderne).

(c) For the clergy: the dean (provst).

The administration process was designed to ensure that those entitled to the property of the deceased (usually his children) actually received it; and further, if these heirs were minors, to protect the property and conserve it until they reached legal age. To accomplish these objectives a type of adversary legal proceeding was instituted. For example, if a man died leaving minor children, his widow could not remarry until an administration had been completed and the interests of the children were safeguarded. The law was concerned about what would happen to the property rightfully belonging to those children if the wife remarried. It was felt that it would be most unfair if the widow remarried and then died leaving the bulk of the property of her deceased husband to husband number two rather than to the children of that first marriage. To protect the interests of the children, the estate was divided giving the widow her portion and the children their portions, with a member of the deceased husband's family being appointed as guardian for the minors and conservator of their portions of the estate.

If the wife had died first, the same procedure would have been followed with the assets of her estate.⁴

⁴It is interesting to note that just as many women died leaving estates as did men, and many administrations for women give even more genealogical details. The reason that women had property (quite different from the situation in Britain, America, and the other Common-law countries) is because of the "community property" system used in the European, Roman/Civil-law countries. Under that system all property acquired by the husband and wife, or either, during marriage (unless acquired as separate property) belonged to the marital community as a kind of marital partnership. The husband was the manager of the community, but each owned half of the property. There were some differences in the operation of the system depending on the period of time involved and the country.

In order that the validity of claims against the estate of the deceased could be properly determined, it was necessary to list all persons who had claims against the property. Consequently the records of an administration often contain much information about relatives of the deceased, not only the spouse and children, but also parents, brothers and sisters, and their issue. The following is a list of types of information usually found in records of probate and administration:

1. The full name of the deceased.
2. The last place of residence of domicile of the deceased.
3. The heirs of the deceased and their places of residence at the time of the administration.
4. The ages of the deceased's children (heirs).
5. The husbands of married female heirs.
6. The guardians of minor children. These were frequently relatives of the deceased, in which case relationships were usually stated.
7. The guardian for the widow (when she was the survivor). This person was usually one of her relatives and the relationship frequently stated.
8. An inventory of the deceased's property with a list of creditors and debtors.

You will not always be able to find a administration for the estate of every ancestor, even when they were made in accordance with the law. Many of these records have been lost or destroyed, and sometimes widows (and widowers) with minor children were given permission by court officials to delay the administration of the deceased spouse's estate. Administration was still required⁵, however, to have the estate administered before the children came of age or before the surviving spouse could remarry.

Generally speaking, these records of the administration of estates are the most common and the most important probate records in Denmark. They are the records which cover the great bulk of the population--perhaps 80 percent.

GUARDIAN SUPERVISION RECORDS (Overformynderi protokollerne)

The guardian supervision system of Denmark began in the cities with a law of 7 April 1619. The law stipulated that, in each city, two of the most prominent citizens should be public trustees to oversee the activities of guardians appointed for minor children. In the beginning supervision of the inheritances of these orphan children was not the responsibility of these overseers, but in later years this became their chief function. It is questionable if the supervision of the physical welfare of these children was ever carried out as intended, even though this function was given specific emphasis in laws of 1790 and 1827.

⁵ Sometimes these administrations took place on a private basis and there is no record.

In rural areas responsibility for supervising minors' inheritances rested upon the local probate officials. These officials, however, were not given responsibility for supervising the physical welfare of the children. In April 1869 the guardian-supervision officials of Copenhagen City were given responsibility for the entire country.

The records of the supervision of guardians ordinarily contain the following types of information:

1. The name of the deceased person from whom the minors inherited.
2. The names of the minors (wards).
3. The relationship(s) of the minors to the deceased's estate.
4. The amount of the inheritance and accumulated interest.
5. Comment about what happened to the minor wards later in their lives, when the inheritance was paid to them, etc.
6. The names of the guardians and their relationships to the wards.

WILLS (Testamenter)

Wills in Denmark have much less importance than other probate records because only a very small percentage of the population left them, because they are difficult to locate, and because they were seldom indexed. Notwithstanding these problems, however, wills are a source which the genealogist should not overlook because they contain information just as valuable as do the records of estate administration.

The persons most likely to leave wills were those who desired their property to go to someone who would not receive it under the normal administration processes. Single persons, those who were married but had no children and who desired to leave everything to the surviving spouse, and those who had step-children to whom they desired to leave property were the most likely persons to leave wills, but we stress again that wills were very rare.

A will does not usually contain all the information found in an administration. Ages, places of residence, relationships to others, etc., are much less likely to be stated. Ordinarily the will contains the following types of information:

1. The name of the testator (i.e., the person leaving the will).
2. The testator's residence at the time he drew the will.
3. The names of those who are the object of the testor's bounty (the devisees or indsat arving).
4. The relationships or other connections between the testators and the devisees.
5. The date the will was drawn and the date it was probated.
6. The names of subscribing witnesses.

LOCATING THE RECORDS

COPENHAGEN CITY

Many different types of documents have arisen as part of the administration process in Copenhagen City. Of special importance are the forseglingsprotokollerne (the official records of administration) in which the heirs are usually mentioned, and dokumenter til ordinaere boer (miscellaneous documents pertaining to the dead). These records are filed separately, and special master indexes to them are available after 1798. The indexes are arranged by the names of the deceased and an index entry looks like this:

$\frac{5}{323}$ Jens Hansen 5--169

The number 5 preceding the name refers to the social classification of the deceased, the books of which contain this administration (5. Artists, tradesmen, journeymen, apprentices, etc.), and 323 is the number of the file in the dokumenter til ordinaere boer. The numbers following the name refer again to the social classification (5) under which the administration was recorded and the page number (169) in the forseglingsprotokollerne where the official records of the administration are recorded.

Both the records and the indexes are on microfilm at the Genealogical Society. They are cataloged under Copenhagen City (København, København, probate records).

The records of guardian supervision (overformynderi protokollerne) for the city of Copenhagen were kept in the same jurisdiction as were the administrations. They are also cataloged under Copenhagen City by the Genealogical Society and are available (with indexes) from 1668.

OTHER CITIES

The records of administrations from the cities are nearly all indexed, and the indexes are available at the Genealogical Society. Remember there were no separations by social class outside of Copenhagen, so in other cities all probates are indexed in the same volumes. The indexes are to volume and page. The system was the same in all cities except Copenhagen and the Genealogical Society has cataloged these records according to the names of the cities, under each county.

Some cities have records of guardian supervision (overformynderi protokollerne) beginning in the last half of the seventeenth century, but most begin somewhat later. These records were maintained in the same jurisdictions as the other probate records. After 1869 all guardianship records are in the underretter (lower courts). These underretter function under the direction of the overformynderie (the administrative agency) in Copenhagen.

RURAL AREAS

A. Godser--the land estates or manors.

1. Jylland: To locate the administration for the estate of a deceased person

in Jylland you must know the village or hamlet where he resided at the time of his death. If you know the parish, this information can usually be obtained from the death entry in the parish register. Once the place of residence is ascertained you can determine the estate(s) which had jurisdiction over the administration by referring to the book, Jens Sørensen og Maren Nielsdatter by O. M. Hoffman-Bang.⁶ The book has been microfilmed by the Genealogical Society (microfilm number 160,126) and lists every district (herred) in northern Jylland (Nørre Jylland), except those in the counties of Haderslev, Tønder, and Aabenraa-Sønderborg. Under each district the book lists the land estates or manors which had any probate jurisdiction within the district; then, under each land estate, the names of all parishes, villages, and hamlets over which it had probate jurisdiction are listed. It is often necessary to check the indexes to the administrations in several of these land estates before the specific record you seek can be found.

On the same microfilm (number 160, 126) is a handwritten book⁷ containing an alphabetical list of all the parishes in the same area. This list tells the land district(s) in which each parish is situated and gives the page number in Hofman-Bang's book where the district is described. An entry looks something like this:

<u>Dalbyneder.</u>	Demstrup 45	Overgaard 45	Lovenholm 48
	Sodringholm 45		

It is important to use this second book before you use the Hofman-Bang book because it is a guide to the use of Hofman-Bang. Once you have gone to this handwritten book and have determined the name of the land estate and the page on which it is listed in Hofman-Bang, it is an easy matter to go to that book and get the information you need. Hofman-Bang lists all places within each land estate and tells the time period covered by the records. You will note from our sample entry that the administrations of persons from a particular parish might be in one of several different land estates, perhaps even in different districts.

Both of these guide books (Hofman-Bang and Jørgensen), together with the guidebook for Fyn, Langeland, Taasinge, and AERø discussed in No. 3 below have been reprinted in J. Grant Stevenson's Danish Genealogical Research, vol. 3 (Provo, Utah: the author, 1965, call number: ref 929.1489, S48d, vol. 3).

2. Sjaelland (and Møen): There is an excellent guide book to assist you in determining which land estates had jurisdiction over which parishes. The book is Alex Nørhøj's Skifteprotokoller i Landsarkivet for Sjaelland m.m. (Copenhagen: Ege Forlag, 1948, GS call number: 948.91, S2n). The book has two sections--the first being a list of land estates and the second being an alphabetical index/list of parishes, villages and hamlets. You should use the second section first to look up the name of the place where your ancestor resided at his death, then use the information found there to locate the proper land estate in the first section.

⁶O. M. Hofman-Bang, Jans Sorensen og Maren Nielsdatter (Viborg: Aug. D. Ekstrands Bogtrykkeri, 1927).

⁷John Jørgensen, Sogneregister til Hofman-Bang's Bog (no date or place of publication).

We should note here that in some parishes of Sjaelland the county and the cavalry districts were the only probate jurisdictions for many years.

3. Fyn, Langeland, Taasinge, and AErø: There is a handwritten guide book for these islands available on microfilm at the Genealogical Society⁸ (GS microfilm number: 050,125) containing the following information:

First section: An alphabetical list of land estates (giving the time periods which the records cover).

Second section: An alphabetical list/index of towns, hamlets, and parishes telling in which land estate each place is located and referring to the first section.

Note that there is a table of the abbreviations used in this book located between the two sections.

4. Bornholm: Only a few land estates, as we know them in the other areas of Denmark, existed on this island. For the vast majority of the people we must look to other jurisdictions for the records. The probate jurisdiction was under the county until 1761, after which the records will be found in the herreder.

5. Sønderjylland: There is no guidebook available, but the few land estates and the years which the records cover are as follow:

Haderslev County:

Gram, Gammel and Ny (old and new) (1719-1779)
Nybøl (1761-1781)
Slotsgrundens Herredsfogderi (1812, 1815, 1820)

Aabenraa-Sønderborg County:

Ballegaard (1737-1837)
Ballegaard and Bøgeskov (1850)
Blansgaard (1792-1815)
Bøgeskov (1784-1867)
Graasten (1640-1852)
Ladegaard (1779-1848)
Reventlov (1788-1825, 1844-1853)
Skovbølgaard (Felsted Parish) (1829-1862)
Søgaard and AErøft (1734-1857)
Rumohrsgaard and Gammelgaard, Als District (1747-1865)
Varnaes (1847)

Tønder County:

Frederikskov (Højer District) (1698-1736, 1765-1852)
Trøjborg (1698-1706, 1743-1746, 1748-1750, 1764-1775, 1816-1860)

⁸ Stedregister til Skifteprotokoller (no date or place of publication). Note that this book, together with the books described under No. 1, were reprinted in Stevenson's Danish Genealogical Research, vol. e.

6. Lolland-Falster: A guidebook listing all probate records available for these islands has been prepared by the Research Department of the Genealogical Society. It is entitled Index to Probate Records of Maribo County (GS call number: Reg., 948.921, S2p). Under each parish the probate courts having jurisdiction in the area are listed.

The Genealogical Society has cataloged the probate records of the Danish godser under the names of the estates.

B. Amt og Amtstuer--the counties:

Before 1793 the counties of Denmark were based primarily on the large land estates and were different than they are today. Because of changes in county names and boundaries, and because of the tendency of some of the old counties to continue jurisdiction even after 1793, the county probate records are often difficult to locate. In the Genealogical Society library catalog you should look for the name of the old county under the name of that modern county created to cover most of the same geographical area. Thus you should be aware that county probate records for some of the areas now in one modern county are cataloged under another modern county. An example of this is the ancient county of Aalborgshus. Parts of what once comprised that county are now in both Hjørring and Thisted counties, as well as in Aalborg County; but all the old Aalborgshus County probate records are cataloged under Aalborg.

A list of parishes of Denmark before 1890 with the names of both the old and the new counties is found in Frank Smith and Finn A. Thomsen's Genealogical Guidebook & Atlas of Denmark (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1969), pp. 20-52. The same list also gives other data of value to the genealogist such as the name of the herred (district) in which each parish is located. This is important since most rural probate records between 1793 and 1919 were kept within this jurisdiction.

C. Rytterdistrikter--the cavalry districts.

In the catalog of the Genealogical Society, the rytterdistrikter probate records are identified by the name of the county in which each district is located. You should note that these records may also contain some administrations from the county jurisdiction. A general (alphabetical) index to all rytterdistrikter probate records (except those for Copenhagen and Lolland-Falster) has been prepared by the Genealogical Society. It is found on microfilm as follows:

A--J	Film number 537,265
K--R	Film number 537,266
S--Z	Film number 537,267

D. Herreder--the districts.

Locating the herreder records of probate and administration is very important because between 1793 and 1919 most estates were administered under this jurisdiction. (Many, however, do not begin that early and earlier jurisdictions should be consulted). In the catalog at the Genealogical Society these records are found by looking in the catalog under the name of the county in which the particular herred (district) is located. You will find them cataloged as follows:

Country	County	District	Type of record
Denmark,	Odense,	Hindsgavl Herred	Probate records

To determine the name of the herred in which a particular parish (Sogn) is located use Smith and Thomsen's Genealogical Guidebook & Atlas of Denmark, mentioned earlier.

The vast majority of the probate records in the herreder are indexed at the end of each book, but the indexes seem to follow no universal pattern in their form. Most are indexed according to given names, while only a few are indexed according to patronymics and surnames. (Note: Under preparation is a greatly simplified way of locating probate jurisdictions in the rural areas of Denmark. Write to Thomsen's Genealogical Center for information about the area you are interested in.)

WILLS (Testamenter)

Not only are wills rare, but they are often quite difficult to locate. The most likely place to find them is among the notarial records (Notarial protokollerne), mingled with the other records of the notaries. These records are seldom indexed and are very time-consuming to use. Some wills are also found among records pertaining to court procedures, passports, pension funds, etc.

USING THE RECORDS

Once you have learned how to find the records you want, you must learn how to derive full benefit from them. Sometimes the records of probate and administration are the only source of information available and thus offer the only opportunity for extending an ancestral line. When other sources are available, the probate records frequently provide additional information not found in the other sources. The genealogist who makes a practice of checking for probate records for every family on his pedigree will soon come to appreciate the full value of these records.

The main value of probate and administration records lies in the details which they contain on family relationships, places, and residences. Due to the patronymic naming system and the fact that the total number of surnames used in Denmark prior to 1900 was relatively small, these records are perhaps even more valuable than they are in many other countries since there is often more need to specifically identify persons in ways that other records may not provide. Frequently the patronymic naming system compounds the problem of deciding which one of two or three persons with the same name was the ancestor being sought. In these circumstances the probate record is often the only source that can provide the evidence needed to solve the problem. And it is significant that they cover such a large segment of the populace--both male and female.

Note the examples that follow:

EXAMPLE 1:

Søren Hansen (blacksmith) and Anne Jensdatter, his wife, have been located in

the 1845 census of the city of Thisted. Anne Jensdatter is listed in this census as being thirty-eight years of age, and her place of birth is stated as Østerild parish in Thisted County. The parish registers of Østerild show the following christenings:

Anne Jensdatter, born 15 March 1807, daughter of Jens Larsen and Mette Pedersdatter.

Anne Jensdatter, born 8 July 1808, daughter of Jens Jensen and Maren Sørensdatter.

Since the age stated in the census (38--making her born in 1807) could easily be in error and either entry could be the one we seek, further research is required.

The father of Anne Jensdatter, born 1808 (Jens Jensen), died at Østerild in 1836. His administration was found and shows, among other things, "a daughter, Anne, who is married to Søren Hansen, blacksmith in Thisted." The proper identification was thus established and the ancestral line extended.

EXAMPLE 2:

Probate records also provide clues which lead to the determination of a correct birthplace. If a person died before 1845 (the year of the first census to list birthplaces) it is often necessary to use probate records to help make that determination. Consider the following case and the importance of clues found in the probate record:

Svend Pedersen and Karen Thomasdatter lived in the parish of Graese, Frederiksborg County. The parish registers list six children born between 1781 and 1798, but the marriage of Svend and Karen is not recorded in this parish nor in any adjacent parish. Svend Pedersen died in Graese in 1799 (age 50), and his administration contained the following information:

The guardian for the widow was her brother Peder Thomasen, a farmer in the parish of Lynge. The children's guardian was their father's brother Jørgen Pedersen, a farmer in Torup.

Having obtained this information, the parish registers of Lynge were searched. The marriage of Svend Pedersen and Karen Thomasdatter was found recorded there in 1780.

The parish registers of Graese, Lynge, and Torup were all searched for the christening (birth) of Svend Pedersen, but the search was unsuccessful. The military levying rolls of Graese, which are available from about 1791, do not list Svend Pedersen since he was too old to be listed when the rolls began, but searches in the parish registers of Torup revealed the marriage of Jørgen Pedersen (Svend's brother) to Anne Kirstine Jacobsdatter in 1795. The 1801 census of Torup show Jørgen Pedersen, aged thirty-two, born in Nøddebo, the son of Peder Sørensen. On the basis of this information a search of the parish registers of Nøddebo was made, producing the birth records of both Svend and Jørgen Pedersen.

THE MILITARY LEVYING ROLLS OF DENMARK

BACKGROUND

The regular Danish army consisted of volunteers prior to 1700. These volunteers were primarily foreigners. In 1701, and again in 1733, this "standing" army was supplemented with a national militia, consisting of young men drafted from the rural areas. From 1733 to 1788, the period of "compulsory residence" (Stavnsbaandet), the great majority of the Danish farmers leased their farms from the owners of large estates, or lords of the manors. These landowners had the responsibility of supplying the national militia with a specified number of men from among those leasing or working on the land owned by them. A few levying rolls are preserved from this period, but they seldom contain information as complete as the later rolls. This section, therefore, will deal with those commencing in 1788.

In that year, the method of enlistment changed so that the large estate owners no longer had any influence as to who should serve in the militia. The country was divided into a number of levying districts (løgds) which usually were identical with the ecclesiastical parishes. Normally, the largest landowner in each levying district was assigned the responsibility of keeping a current list of all the young men living in the district, with the exception of the sons of nobility, large landowners, parish ministers and clerks, schoolteachers and other prominent people.

Borholm County and the incorporated cities were the exception to this rule. They had their own militia, and are not included in military levying rolls.

From 1843, the incorporated cities kept levying rolls, but only for those persons who had moved from the rural areas into that city, and were still liable to service in the army. Prior to this period, these men would be found on the roll of a levying district next to the city. Copenhagen was the exception to this rule, and had its own levying district for persons moving into the city from a rural district as early as 1832.

In the years following 1788, the national militia was integrated into the regular army, and from 1803 the army consisted, with a few exceptions, of young men drafted from the rural districts of Denmark.

The navy was manned primarily by men drafted from the coastal areas, among that part of the population who had its living from the fishing fleet or the merchant marine. While the military levying rolls are complete from about 1790, for those people liable for military service, it was not until 1802 that Navy Levying Rolls were prepared, except for the counties of Odense and Svendborg, which began in 1796.

Prior to 1793 there were 48 counties in Denmark and the early military levying rolls were based on that county arrangement. In 1793 a new arrangement

reducing the number of counties was made, but in several areas of Denmark the old county system was still being used in military levying roll recordings until about 1806.

DESCRIPTION AND CONTENTS

1. The Military Levying Rolls (Army) consisted of a complete list of conscripts from each particular district. This list was usually made up every three years. For the other years, where a complete list was not made, a special supplement listed all males born in that year or the last part of the previous year, and also the males that moved into the levying district in that period, provided they had previously been listed in another district. The rolls are arranged chronologically, and it is easy to discern the two years that are supplementary lists and which are the complete rolls occurring every three years. In addition, there is a supplemental list for each third year, in which the complete roll is prepared, recording any changes that had occurred during that year.

A male child was listed on the levying roll shortly after he was born. Also a record was made immediately if a person moved from one district to another. So it is possible to follow a male from the old list to a new one, thus tracing his movements from parish to parish.

During the period 1789-1849 males were listed on the rolls from birth and continued to be listed there until they were around 44 years of age unless removed earlier because of poor health, added responsibilities or other legitimate reasons. After 12 Feb. 1849 names were dropped from the rolls when the persons had reached about age 38. Also, after that date male children were not recorded on the rolls until they had been confirmed or became 15 years of age. After 1869 the names were not entered on the rolls until the males were 17 years of age.

Each levying roll contains:

The conscript's name, his age, place of birth, residence, height, old and new serial number, miscellaneous information pertaining to his service record, disabilities, exemptions from military service, notification of death, name of father (if the person is born illegitimate, the name of the mother is given).

2. The Navy Levying Rolls contain the same information as the Army Rolls and, in addition, provide information concerning a conscript's marriage and the number of his children. In those cases where the conscript is a young man, reference is given to the place where his father appears on the lists.

Information of a person's shipping experiences and occupation are also recorded. Before 1849 the men would remain on the rolls as long as they lived. After 1849 the names were removed around the age of 50 years, or in cases where they were not employed with the fishing fleet or the merchant marine, the names would be removed around the age of 38 years.

An important difference between the Army and Navy Rolls is the arrangement of the complete list, that is the list taken at three-year intervals. The Navy list for that third year has three sections:

A. Roll of young men (Sø Ungdomsrulle). In this section are listed the

young men from birth until the age when they would be able to serve in the Navy.

B. Active Roll (Sø Hovedliste). This roll contains the names of the men who are at an age to serve in the Navy.

C. The Extra or Reserve Roll (Sø Extrarulle). In this roll is the list of the older men, the Reserve, who probably would be asked to serve in the event of a national emergency.

EXAMPLES TAKEN FROM A PAGE IN THE
MILITARY LEVYING ROLLS (LAEGDSRULLE) FOR THE YEAR 1802

(Laegd No. 39)

	Gl. Løbe No. (Old Serial No.)	Nye Løbe No. (New Serial No.)	Fædrenes og Sønnernes Navne. (The names of the fathers and the sons.)	Sønnernes Fødested. (The son's birthplace)	Alder Aar. (Age, Year)	Højde Tommer. (Height, Inches)	Nu havende Opholdssted (Present residence)	Vedtegninger (Misc.)
1.	286	224	Christen Knudsen Knud Afsked Sess. 1804 (Dismissed)	Brøderup	25	63½	Brøderup	Gmd. 1802 (Farmer 1802)
2.	287	225	Christen Larsen Lars	Siolte	27	62½	Siolte	Soldat 98 (Soldier in 1798)
3.	288	226	Hans Jensen Christen	Snesere	6	.....	hjemme (at home)	
4.	295	228	Jens Sørensen Jens 51 B 316	Herslev	7	.....	Siolte	
5.	296	229	Jens Sørensen Søren 51 B 317	Herslev	3	.....	Siolte	
6.	310	231	Niels Olsen Ole Vejle 16 C 122	Brøderup	3	.....	hjemme (at home)	
7.	315	233	Maren Larsdatter Peder Nielsen	Siolte	3	.....	hjemme (at home)	
8.	L317	234	Rasmus Lauridsen Sven	Brøderup			hjemme (at home)	født (born) 11 August 1802
9.	L320	235	Morten Larsen Morten	Bredston	19	64	Brøderup	fra (from) 41-276
10.	L321	236	Hans Svenningsen Svenning	Vorup	22	62	Brøderup	fra (from) Randers 7-342

NOTE: On the example sheet some names and numbers are crossed out. This indicates that that person was deleted from the roll by transfer to another roll or some other reason as indicated by the information shown just under the name.

Explanation of Examples

1. Knud Christensen became a farmer in 1802 and was able to be removed from the list in 1804; he will not be found in any list for later years.
2. Lar Christensen will be found in the next complete list of the parish (or district) as no. 225.
3. Christen Hansen is only 6 years old. His present residence is listed as "hjemme" (at home) with his parents.
4. Jens Jensen moved to parish (or district) no. 51 (within the same county) and will be found here on supplement list "B" (the 1804 supplement list) as no. 316.
5. Søren Jensen is very likely a brother to Jens Jensen (see example 4) as he moves to the same place and will be found on the same list as no. 317.
6. Ole Nielsen moved to parish no. 16 in Vejle County and here will be found on supplement list "C" (the 1805 supplement list) as no. 122.
7. Peder Nielsen is an illegitimate child, and the mother's name is given instead of the father's name.
8. Sven Rasmussen was born 11 August 1802; the male children are listed on the supplement list shortly after their birth. The full date of birth is given only on the first supplement list and, in some cases, on the first complete third year list.
9. Morten Mortensen has just moved into the parish (or levying dist.). He came from district no. 41 in the same county and is found on the last complete third year list from that parish as no. 276.
10. This example is similar to no. 9, but Svenning Hansen came from another county, Randers.

In the examples just quoted, it may be wondered how the year of the new list is determined (see examples nos. 4, 5, 6 and 9).

In example no. 4, for instance, Jens Jensen is simply indicated as having moved, by the entry "51 B 316."

"51" signifies the levying district, "B" indicates the year (1804) and "316" is the entry number on the 1804 supplemental list. The year 1804 is determined by referring to the list which follows. Thus, a reference such as "51 B 316" made BACK to the roll for the year 1802, refers to the year 1804, it being the first year following the year 1802 having a reference "B."

In other words, when the move was made in 1804, the roll for 1802 (which was a complete third year roll) was pulled out and the cross-reference made.

Each of the supplement lists was designated by a letter, except the year 1807 (none) and the year 1842 (two lists). The letter "j" was used for both "i" and "j" in those days.

Supplement lists:

1793-A	1803-A	1815-A	1826-A	1851-A
1794-B	1804-B	1816-B	1827-B	1852-B
1795-C	1805-C	1817-C	1828-C	1853-C
1796-D	1806-D	1818-D	1829-D	1854-D
1797-E	1807-(none)	1819-E	1830-E	1855-E
1798-F	1808-E	1820-F	1831-F	1856-F
1799-G	1809-F	1821-G	1832-G	1857-G
1800-H	1810-G	1822-H	1833-H	1858-H
1801-J	1811-H	1823-J	1834-J	1859-J
1802-K	1812-J	1824-K	1835-K	1860-K
	1813-K	1825-L	1836-L	
	1814-L		1837-M	
			1838-N	
			1839-O	
			1840-P	
			1841-Q	
			1842-R and S	
			1843-T	
			1844-U	
			1845-W	
			1846-X	
			1847-Y	
			1848-Z	
			1849-AE	
			1850-Ø	

There is also, of course, a complete list for every third year to which the above are supplemental.

How to use the Military Levying Rolls

1. Locate on the map the parish and the county where your ancestor lived.
2. Check the book: Genealogical Guidebook and Atlas of Denmark, by Smith and Thomsen, to determine under what levying district the parish is located.
3. Locate the parish by finding the levying district number on the roll.
4. Since the names of the persons on the roll are listed with their given names only, use the father's given name (listed just above the other name) and add "sen" to the proper surname for the son.

Value

Probably the greatest value of the military levying rolls to the researcher is that it provides a genealogical tool which makes it possible to follow a family moving from one place to another. This is particularly valuable in the period 1790-1830 when most of the parish registers do not contain any incoming or outgoing lists. Fortunately, the vast majority of the Danish population lived in the rural areas at that time, and the husbands and the sons are found in these records.

However, the benefit is not just the possibility of following the movement of a family, but since the place of birth, the age and the name of the father is given for the persons on the lists, it also becomes possible to find the place of birth for all the males recorded as early as 1790. If a person was age 44 in 1790 and listed on the rolls, we would learn where he was born and the name of the father: i.e., birth place and parentage as early as 1746-50 can be located in military levy rolls.

IMPORTANT DANISH GENEALOGICAL SOURCES

1. APPLICATION RECORDS (BLANKETREGNSKABER):

Period covered: 1800 – 1847

Contents: Applications administered by civil authorities under the direction of the chancelry regarding marriages, divorces, burials, testaments. (Copenhagen City).

Availability: Copenhagen City Archives. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

2. COPYHOLD RECORDS (FAESTEPROTOKOLLER) :

Period covered: Approximately 1700 to present

Contents: Names of persons leasing the farms, residences. Often the name of the person who leased the farm previously.

Availability: National and Provincial Archives in Denmark. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

3. COURT RECORDS (TINGBØGER ELLER RETSPROTOKOLLER):

Period covered: 1564 to present

Contents: Names of persons involved in court cases, occupations, relationships, residences.

Availability: Provincial Archives and Local Courts. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah for the period 1564-1913.
Records not indexed.

4. DEEDS AND MORTGAGE RECORDS (SKØDE AND PANTEPROTOKOLLER):

Period covered: 1580 to present

Contents: Names of persons, relationships, residences, dates of documents, etc.

Availability: Provincial and local Archives and Offices. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah for the period 1580-1945.

5. EMIGRATION RECORDS (UDVANDRINGSJOURNALER):

A. Emigration Records:

Period covered: 1868 – 1959

(Emigration Records continued):

Contents: Name of emigrant, occupation, place of birth or residence, age, destination, date of embarkation.

Availability: Provincial Archives for Sjaelland. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah for the period 1868-1910.

B. Passport Records (Pasprotokoller):

Period covered: 1780 - 1920

Contents: Name of person receiving the passport, occupation, former place of residence, destination, date of issue.

Availability: Provincial Archives in Denmark. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City.

6. LAND TENANCY RECORDS (JORDEBØGER):

Period covered: 1515 to present

Contents: Names of the persons leasing the farms, the location of the farms, various accounts and transactions.

Availability: National and Provincial Archives and Local Offices in Denmark. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah for the period 1515 - 1922.

7. LAND REGISTRATION RECORDS (LAND MATRIKLER):

Period covered: 1661 - present

Contents: Names of owners or former owners of farms. (Earlier records, 1661, 1664, 1688 very valuable for that time period).

Availability: National and Provincial Archives and Local Offices in Denmark. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah for the period 1661 to abt. 1900.

8. MARRIAGE LICENSE RECORDS (KOPULATIONSPENGEPROTOKOLLER):

Period covered: 1720 - 1868

Contents: Index listing names of male candidates, date of license, parish in which marriage was to be performed. Copenhagen City only.

Availability: City Archives in Copenhagen, Denmark. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

9. MIDWIFE RECORDS (JORDEMØDREBØGER):

Period covered: 18th Century to 20th Century

Contents: Names of persons born, dates of birth, sex, legitimacy of the child, parentage and residence, name of midwife, time of birth.

Availability: Provincial and local medical offices in Denmark.
Available only 80 years after the birth.

10. MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS (STAMBØGER):

Period Covered: (1693) 1765 to present

Contents: Names of officers and enlisted men as recorded in regiments, batteries, companies, etc., ages, sometimes dates and places of birth, dates of death and discharge, place of death, various service information.

Availability: Haerens (The Army) Archives in Copenhagen City, Denmark. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah for the period 1693 to appr. 1890.

11. POLICE CENSUS RETURNS (POLITIETS MANDTALLISTER):

Period covered: 1866 – 1923

Contents: Names of residents and their children over 10, ages, places of birth, relationships, residences, occupations.

Availability: Copenhagen City Archives for the period 1866 – 1900. Later records at Statistical Office, Copenhagen. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

12. DEATH CERTIFICATES (DØDEBLADE):

Period covered: 1893 – 1923

Contents: Full name of the deceased, occupation, place of birth, age, or date of birth, full name of spouse, names of children ages 10–14 and their ages or dates of birth, residences.

Availability: Provincial Archives, Copenhagen, Denmark. On film at the Genealogical Society, Utah.

13. RECORDS OF DOMESTICS (TYENDEPROTOKOLLER):

Period covered: 1828 – 1923

Contents: Names of domestic employees, dates and places of birth or christening, ages, year and place of confirmation, residences.

Availability: Provincial Archives in Denmark. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

14. SCHOOL RECORDS (SKOLEPROTOKOLLER):

Period Covered: 1584 to present

Contents: Names of those enrolled in school, grades, sometimes probate administrations of headmasters, assistants and students. Land Tenancy Records. Inventories, etc..

Availability: Provincial Archives and Schools in Denmark. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah for the period 1584 – 1905.

15. TRADE GUILD RECORDS (LAVSPROTOKOLLER):

Period covered: 1527 – present

Contents: Names of guild members and those seeking membership, sometimes date and place of birth, age, parentage, minutes.

Availability: Provincial and City Archives and Local Guild Offices. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah for the period 1527–1906.

16. TRADE LICENSES (RAADSTUE OG BORGERSKABSPROTOKOLLER):

Period covered: 1596 to present

Contents: Names of applicant, occupation, date of license, sometimes age or date of birth and place of birth, residence.

Availability: Various City Archives in Denmark. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah for the period 1596–1933.

17. VITAL RECORDS (CIVILE REGISTRE):

A. Civil Marriages (Borgerlige Vielser):

Period covered: 1851 to present

Contents: Name of candidates, residences, occupations, marital status, date of marriage, sometimes ages. (Cities)

Availability: City and some Provincial Archives in Denmark. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah fo the period 1851–1961.

B. Death Certificates (Dødsattester):

Period covered: 1857 to present

Contents: Name of deceased, age marital status, occupation, residence, date of death.

Availability: Provincial Archives in Denmark. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.
(Not available from Jylland).

C. Civil Registration (Personregistre):

Period covered: 1874 to present

Contents: Information pertaining to births, marriages and deaths. Names, dates, sex, places, religion, parents, spouses, occupations, residences, etc.

Availability: Provincial Archives at Aabenraa, Denmark. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah for the period 1874-1950. Available only for Aabenraa-Sønderborg, Haderslev, and Tønder counties.

D. General Registration (Folkeregister):

Period covered: 1924 to present

Contents: General listing of all inhabitants, kept on a commune basis. List complete names of persons, dates, places, occupations, residences and records of removals and arrivals. (An excellent source for this period).

Availability: Local registration offices in Denmark.

18. PRINTED HISTORIES:

There are many printed sources available pertaining to the more prominent families of Denmark. Especially is this true of the nobility and the clergy; but many family histories have been compiled for the more common people also. However, the more uncommon the name is the better is the possibility of finding a printed family history.

The municipal library of Frederiksberg (Frederiksberg Kommunebibliotek) has an excellent collection of family histories and has made available a published catalog.

The Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City, Utah has a limited collection of Danish family histories, but has obtained valuable books pertaining to the nobility and the clergy.

IMPORTANT NORWEGIAN GENEALOGICAL SOURCES

1. COURT RECORDS (JUSTISPROTOKOLLER):

Period covered: 1650 to present

Contents: Names, dates, places, relationships, personal and legal matters. Occasionally it will list entire families.

Availability: National and Regional Archives in Norway. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

2. EMIGRATION (EMIGRASJONSPROTOKOLLER):

A. Police Emigration Lists:

Period covered: 1867 to present

Contents: Names, places of residence, ages, date of departure, destinations and the names of the ships.

Availability: Regional Archives and local Police Stations in Norway. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah for the period 1867 - 1900.

B. White Star Lines:

Period covered: 1883 - 1923

Contents: Names and destinations (Information will vary).

Availability: Regional Archives in Norway.

3. LANDCOMMISSION (LANDKOMMISJONER):

(Ledgers, Land Rentals, Tithes and various Tax Information)

Period covered: 1661 - 1691

Contents: Names and monetary amounts.

Availability: National Archives in Norway. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

4. LAND AND PROPERTY RECORDS (JORDEBØKER):

Period covered: 1660 - 1676

Contents: Index to Land rentals and records, list Names, Dates and acreage of Farms.

4. Land and Property Records (continued)

Availability: Some books have been printed. National Archives in Norway. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

5. MILITARY RECORDS (MILITAERPROTOKOLLER):

Period covered: 1643 to present

Contents: Names, ages, residences, sometimes places of birth, military units.

Availability: Regional and National Archives in Norway. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah for the period 1643 – 1900. From 1900 available at the division headquarters in Norway.

6. MORTGAGE RECORDS (PANTEBØKER):

Period covered: Appr. 1700 to present

Contents: Names, places, sometimes relationships.

Availability: Various Archives in Norway. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah for the period 1700–1800.

7. REAL ESTATE BOOKS (MATRIKKEL):

Period covered: 1665 to present

Contents: Names of owners and cultivators of farms.

Availability: National and Regional Archives of Norway.

8. REVENUE AND EXPENSE RECORDS (LENSREGNSKABER):

Period covered: 1602–1670

Contents: Names of owners and cultivators of farms.

Availability: National Archives of Norway. On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

9. TAX LISTS (SKATTELISTER):

Period covered: abt. 1700 – 1864

9. Tax Lists (continued)

Contents: Names, places and amount of tax.

Availability: National and Regional Archives of Norway.
On film at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City,
Utah.

10. PRINTED HISTORIES:

There are many printed histories available at the various libraries of Norway. The Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City, Utah has a collection of Norwegian family histories also. The rural histories (Bygdebøker) is a major genealogical source and often contain much information about the inhabitants of the area and their families. It is an important source which should be checked by all researchers. The more prominent a person was and the more uncommon his name was, the more likely the researcher will find him mentioned in some printed material.

MAJOR L.D.S. CHURCH RECORDS

INTRODUCTION:

This manual outlines the major L.D.S. church records of genealogical interest. The sources are available at the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City, Utah. Some may also be available at the various L.D.S. branch genealogical libraries.. All L.D.S. Church Records are not described in this manual; there are numerous smaller collections that may be of interest to the researcher.

This section has been included in the manual as there are many members of the L.D.S. Church with Scandinavian ancestry who may need to search these records before they are able to locate the place of residence of their ancestors in the old countries. However, some of the sources are also very valuable for Non-Members.

1. CHURCH CENSUS RETURNS:

Period covered: 1914, 1920, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1950 and 1960.

Contents: Name, sex, date of birth or age, place of birth (state or country), marital status, residence, church positions, etc.

Availability: On microfilms at the Genealogical Society.
(Note: Not all members of the L.D.S. Church are recorded in the Census Returns.)

2. INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX:

Period covered: abt. 1500 to present

Contents: Names of deceased individuals, date of birth or christening, place of birth or christening, date and place of marriage. L.D.S. ordinance dates.

Availability: On microfiche at the Genealogical Society and at L.D.S. Branch Genealogical Libraries.
(Available by correspondence for a small fee).

NOTE: This is an extremely important genealogical source for members as well as for non members of the L.D.S. church. The index contains appr. 60 million names at the present time. The names are from all over the world with several million names from the Scandinavian countries. This file is growing with appr. 4 million names every year.

3. EARLY CHURCH INFORMATION FILE:

Period covered: Appr. 1840 – early 1900s

Contents: A card index compiled from various L.D.S. church and early Utah records.

3. Early Church Information File (continued)

Contents continued: Names of L.D.S. Church members, date and place of birth, names of parents, date of marriage, name of spouse, date and place of death and burial, L.D.S. ordinance dates, etc. (The information will vary).

Availability: Original index and microfilm copies at the Genealogical Society.

4. DECEASED MEMBERS FILE (Early Scandinavian Section):

Period covered: 1852-1895

Contents: Name of the deceased member (of the Scandinavian Mission), date and place of birth. Various information pertaining to L.D.S. ordinances.

Availability: Original and on film at the Genealogical Society.

5. EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION:

A. European Emigration Card Index (also known as Crossing the Ocean Index):

Period covered: 1840-1925

Contents: Names of L.D.S. Church members emigrating from Europe, ages, nationalities, name of ships, dates and places of departure and arrival. (The index is incomplete).

Availability: On film at the Genealogical Society.

B. Utah Immigration Card Index (also known as Crossing the Plains Index):

Period covered: 1849-1925

Contents: Names of L.D.S. Church members, ages, names of pioneer company, dates of arrival in Salt Lake City, sometimes the name of the ship on which the immigrant crossed the Atlantic, dates of departure from foreign port. (The index is incomplete).

C. Liverpool Office, European Mission Shipping Records:

Period covered: 1849-1925

Contents: Names of L.D.S. Church members from all over Europe, ages, sex, occupations, marital status, nationalities, conferences, addresses or residences, names of the ships,

C. Liverpool Office (continued):

Contents (continued): departure dates, destinations.

Availability: On film at the Genealogical Society and at the B.Y.U. University, Provo, Utah.

D. Scandinavian Mission:

Period covered: 1853-1920

Contents: Names of L.D.S. members, nationalities, ages, sex, occupations, birthplace (usually country only), date of departure, sometimes relationships to other persons on the same list. Sometimes the village or parish of birth is recorded.

Availability: On film at the Genealogical Society and at the B.Y.U. University, Provo, Utah.

E. Copenhagen, Denmark:

Period covered: 1872-1894

Contents: L.D.S. emigrants from Denmark, Norway and Sweden who sailed from Copenhagen.
Names, ages, marital status, occupations, last residences, names of ships, dates of departure, destinations (usually Hull, England).

Availability: Provincial Archives of Sjaelland, Copenhagen, Denmark.
On film at the Genealogical Society.

6. FAMILY GROUP RECORDS ARCHIVES:

Period covered: abt. 1500 - 1969

Contents: Family Group Records Sheets listing complete families such as full names of husband and wives, their children and parents, date and place of birth (or christening) of the husband, wife and children. date of death or burial, place of death or burial for husband and wife. Information pertaining to relationships and sources. L.D.S. ordinance dates.

Availability: Originals available at the Genealogical Society. Some L.D.S. branch libraries have them on microfilms.

NOTE: This is a major source for members as well as non members. The main section contains approximately seven million family group record sheets submitted to the Genealogical Society in the period 1942-1970. Another

6. Family Group Records Archives (contilued):

Availability (continued):

section of the archives contains an additional several million family group record sheets. (The information on the sheets are not always correct)..

7. MEMBERSHIP RECORDS:

Period covered: appr. 1835-present

Contents: Names of members, dates and places of birth, names of parents, spouses and children, dates of marriages , divorce, death, arrivals and removals, place of marriage. Children's dates and places of birth. L.D.S. ordinance dates.
(Only some of the later records will contain all this information).

Availability: This is a restricted file. Contact the Genealogical Society for details.

8. MISCELLANEUS MARRIAGE INDEX:

Period covered: 1870-1940s

Contents: Names of brides and grooms, dates and places of marriage. Some cards show dates and places of birth, ages and residences as well as information about their parents.

Availability: Original index at the Genealogical Society.

9. PEDIGREE CHARTS (AND A CARD INDEX):

Period covered: abt. 1500 - 1962

Contents: Names ,dates, places, relationships (partially indexed).

Availability: On film at the Genealogical Society and at B.Y.U. University, Provo, Utah.

10. PEDIGREE REFERRAL SERVICE:

Period covered: abt. 1500 - 1968

Contents: Surnames, dates, places of patron's ancestry.

Availability: Genealogical Society and on film at B.Y.U. University, Provo, Utah.

11. SURNAME FILE:

Period covered: 1400s - 1900s

Contents: Partial personal name index to local histories, periodicals,

11. Surname File (continued):

Contents (continued): family histories, family bibles and other sources at the Genealogical Society.
Index incomplete and not kept current.

Availability: Genealogical Society.

12. TEMPLE RECORDS INDEX BUREAU:

Period covered: Approximately 1500- 1970

Contents: Names, dates, places, relationships, names of spouses and parents, L.D.S. ordinance dates.

Availability: Not open to the public for general searching. Access to the Temple Records Index Bureau for direct-line ancestral families is available for a small fee and by completing the Temple Ordinance Indexes Request Form (PFGS 0073).

NOTE: This is another major genealogical source for members and non members. The file contains appr. 30 million names from all countries.

RESEARCH STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

To do effective research in the Danish and Norwegian sources, the researcher must know what "tools" are available, and be able to use them properly. A researcher's time is valuable. If we are not aware of what sources are available and know how to use them, we will be wasting many hours or be spending a lot of money unnecessarily; and perhaps never be able to solve our genealogical research problems.

This section has been prepared to assist the new researcher in meeting the challenges of Danish-Norwegian genealogical research and to help him to know the proper standards and research procedures.

1. THE CHALLENGES

2. RESEARCH STANDARDS

3. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

1. THE CHALLENGES:

Aneone starting in genealogical research will face some new challenges. How do I begin? Where do I start? Naturally, it is important to have a solid foundation to build on and that foundation must be personal information and family information, confirmed by documentary sources, such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, etc. We work from the known facts.

However, a researcher who is going to conduct genealogical research in the sources of another country will be faced with some additional challenges; not necessarily real difficult problems, but challenges which he must prepare for. Here are some which the new Danish or Norwegian researcher will have to consider:

- A. The Language
- B. The Handwriting (The Gothic Script)
- C. The Name Customs
- D. The Historical Background
- E. The Geography and Jurisdictions
- F. Knowledge of the main Genealogical Sources

A. The Language

Almost all the records in Denmark and Norway was written in the Danish language until the late nineteenth century. To day the Norwegian language differ somewhat from the Danish. A researcher who needs to check the Norwegian records of this century should be aware that some words are now spelled slightly different.

It is recommended that the researcher who may not be familiar with the Danish-Norwegian language use the first volume of this manual to assist them.

B. The Handwriting (The Gothic Script)

Even modern handwriting can be a challenge. The script which was used in the Danish-Norwegian records until the latter half of the last century was the gothic script. At first, the new researcher may consider that to be a very difficult barrier; however, he will soon be able to master this task if he will learn to write the various letters in the alphabet and become acquainted with the common names. Volume two of this manual was prepared to help provide that instructions.

C. The Name Customs

To know the name customs of the Scandinavian countries is a tremendous advantage to the researcher. Often it will be the clue needed to solve a research case. It was customary to name the children after their relatives, especially close relatives like grandparents. The first male child would usually be given the same name as his paternal grandfather, the second son would often be given his maternal grandfather's name. The first and the second daughter would be named after their grandmothers. This information alone will assist many researchers in their search for the correct ancestors. Another important name custom to know would be the custom to name the first child of a second marriage the same name as the previous spouse if he was of the same sex.

D. The Historical Background

Denmark and Norway were one kingdom for 300 years prior to 1814. The recorders of the various genealogical sources in both countries used the Danish language until approximately 1900. The condition in Norway, however, was much different that was found in Denmark prior to 1800. The Danish rural population lived under very petifful conditions for hundreds of years. Very few of them owned their own land or farms, nor did they have the freedom to move about as they wished. They leased their farms from the large estate owners and were for all intent and purpcse slaves. They were required, not only to pay a certain amount of their crop for rent, but was also required to work a certain number of days on the landowners estate. They were not permitted to move away from the landowners jurisdiction and he was also able to determine who should be drafted into the army. This situation continued until the year 1788 when a new law was passed that gave the rural population their feedom and assisted the farmers in buying their own farms.

The Norwegian did not have the same situation, many more of the farmers owned their own small farms, and they were fregto move as they wished. However, because of the Norwegian mountains and fjords very few moved away from place of birth until the last century.

The condition in the cities were different in both countries than what was mentioned about the Danish rural population. The city population were free to move about as were the case with the people of higher rank who lived in the rural areas.

E. The Geography and Jurisdiction

Basic knowledge of the Danish and Norwegian geography, jurisdictions, maps, postal guides, guidebooks, etc. is important to the researcher. A list of such reference books and maps are available and is listed in this volume.

In Denmark the most important division as far as genealogical research is concerned is: County (Amt), District (Herred) and Parish (Sogn). Each county is divided into districts and each district is divided into parishes, To determine the proper district and county for a certain parish it is suggested the researcher checks the reference

book: Genealogical Guidebook and Atlas of Denmark. For small villages and farms a Danish Postal Guide is very valuable

The important divisions in Norway is County (Fylke or Amt), Clerical District (Prestegjeld), and Parish (Sogn) The county is divided into a number of clerical districts and the clerical districts consist of head parishes and annex parishes. The minister of each head parish usually also had charge of the annex parishes; consequently many of the parish registers of the annex parishes may be found under the head parish. Genealogical Guidebook and Atlas of Norway will assist the researcher to determine the head parish of all the annex parishes. For small places like farms it is suggested that the researcher check the reference book: Norske Gaardnavne (Farm Names of Norway) by O. Rygh which will list all of these. This is an eighteen volume series and is available at the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

F. Knowledge of the Main Genealogical Sources

The sources listed in this volume should be sufficient for the vast majority of researchers. However, a multitude of genealogical sources exists in these countries and it would be a difficult job to list and explain all of them. If the researcher has a specific problem pertaining to his ancestral lines which is not solved by checking the basic sources outlined in this manual, it is recommended that he contact the Regional or Provincial Archives for the area in which he is doing the research. They may be able to suggest some sources available in their archives which could assist in solving the problem. They will not do the actual research, but will usually recommend a local researcher who will check the sources for a fee.

A list of the main archives in Denmark and Norway is found in this manual.

2. RESEARCH STANDARDS:

Most research standards are common for genealogical research in all countries or just common sense. However, each country may have some standards which are due to a particular situation in that country. It is not possible to mention all the research standards pertaining to Danish and Norwegian genealogical research, but it is recommended that the researchers follow the following guidelines:

A. Homesources

First, get a good solid foundation from the family members and the various home sources. That information must be correct or you may be spending endless hours in unnecessary research. In some cases the information obtained here may be very limited, but most people do have relatives, older members of the family who may have the information necessary to a good start in the official records. Old letters, journals, pictures, family bibles, obituary notices should be searched to obtain clues as to names, dates and places. Family information should be verified in official sources if at all possible.

B. Check for Duplication

Every researcher will want to avoid unnecessary duplication of research efforts. It is highly recommended that the many genealogical files or indexes which are available at the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City, Utah be checked. The main files or indexes which should be checked are: 1. Family Group Records Archives, (contains

approximately 600,000 Scandinavian family group record sheets), The International Genealogical Index (appr. 2 million Scandinavian names), and the Temple Records Index Bureau (with appr. 3 million Scandinavian names).

Any information found in these files should be carefully evaluated and when the sources have not been listed, or listed inadequately, the information should be verified. It is a good policy to verify information such as this in the original sources.

C. Proper use of Printed Sources

The various Libraries in Denmark and Norway contain many printed Family Histories and other printed sources. People with unusual Scandinavian family names may very well find a book already published pertaining to the family. It is suggested that a few of the main libraries be contacted to obtain a list of their collection of family histories.

Printed sources can be a great help in any research effort since the compiler, in many cases, has spent countless hours of research in order to compile the genealogical information. However, no such source is better than the information from which it is compiled and the evaluation of the source material by the compiler. If at all possible the researcher should carefully evaluate the sources used by the compiler and verify the information in the original sources.

D. Proper Source References

A Researcher must take sufficient time to record his sources properly. He should list the information he finds exactly as recorded in the entry and the source reference should be specific so he, or another researcher can find the information without delay.

F. Check all Census Returns

The Census Returns are a great help in research in establishing proper relationships and in providing important information as to ages and places of birth. However, often the information pertaining to ages and places of birth are not correct. It all depends upon the knowledge of the person who is at home at the time the census taker visits the place. It is not unusual to find conflicting information in the various census returns; consequently, it is necessary to take the time to check all the available census returns for the time period involved.

G. Search Probate Records

The information given in the probate records of Denmark and Norway in regards to relationships, complete families and the place of residence of each person makes it a most valuable source. Often it is the only source available in an area in a certain time period, but even if other sources are available, the probate record is the source which can provide the proof every researcher seeks.

The researcher should always check for a probate administration for the time period prior to 1814. In approximately 60-70% of all cases he should be able to locate one, if he knows the proper probate jurisdiction. After 1814 the parish registers are more complete and additional sources are usually available, the need for checking the probate records may not be as great; however, it is never a waste of time to search this valuable source.

H. Search five years before and after an approximated date of birth

Information regarding ages can often be several years off. In searching for an ancestor's date of birth (or christening) the researcher must allow himself enough time to search at least five years before and after the calculated date of birth and record and consider all possibilities within that time span. Quite frequently he will find several persons by the same name born in that time period. In order to find out who the ancestor is he may have to compile and complete the research on each family for a number of years. The death records should also be searched to help eliminate some of the possibilities. It is not uncommon for a researcher to find that the person he thought was the ancestor died in infancy.

I. Search for Death Dates for Children

It was a common name custom in Scandinavia that if a child died young to name the next by the same sex the same name. However, it is not unusual to find families with several living children by the same name. The researcher cannot assume that if there are two or more children listed in the parish records that the oldest children died before the youngest was born. An actual death entry should be found or proof of death before recording that.

3. RESEARCH PROCEDURES:

Much time can be saved if a researcher follow the right procedures. A number of research situations has been created in the following procedures to assist the researcher in solving each problem in the shortest possible time.

1. Finding the immigrant ancestor in the records of the old country.
2. Determine the correct ancestor among several persons by the same name.
3. Use of probate records and how the names of witnesses can help to solve a research problem.
4. Extending the direct lines when the parish registers are destroyed.

Procedure # 1:

The information obtained from various family sources indicates that the immigrant ancestor, Fred Simonsen was born at Omotsdahl in Norway 16 Jan 1840 and that he had a sister, Gertrude who was five years older than him. The researcher wants to extend the direct lines in the Norwegian records..

Step # 1:

The exact birthplace must first be established. A check in the Genealogical Guidebook and Atlas of Norway fails to reveal any place by the name Omotsdahl. However, knowing that the pronunciation of the "O" and the special Norwegian letter A (AA) are very similar a check is also made in the guidebook for a Åmotsdahl and we are able to locate a place by the name of Åmotsdal, a parish in the county of Telemark. We also learn that the name of the head parish is Seljord.

Step # 2:

The parish registers are searched and a christening entry for a Frederik Simonsen who was born 16 Jan 1840 is found. He is the son of Simon Frederiksen and Signe Marie Amundsdatter. The witnesses were: Jon Hansen's wife, Kari Amundsdatter; Johan Sorensen and Halvard Simonsen.

Step # 3:

The parish registers are searched for other children of Simon Frederiksen and Signe Marie Amundsdatter and the following entries found:

Maren Simonsdatter, born 3 June 1833, christened 4 June 1833, witnesses:
Johan Sorensen's wife, Anne Marie Frederiksen,
Halvard Frederiksen and the maid Marit Amundsdatter.

Gertrud Simonsdatter, born 6 Sep 1835, christened 6 Sep 1835: witnesses:
The maid Johanne Jensdatter; Arne Frederiksen.

Jorunn Simonsdatter, born 18 Aug 1842, christened 19 Aug 1842; witnesses:
Arne Frederiksen's wife Anne Margrethe Knudsen,
Halvard Frederiksen and Kari Amundsdatter.

In evaluating the information found so far it is apparent that the ancestor, Fred Simonsen and his family has been located. The information found in the Norwegian sources corresponds with what was obtained from the family sources as follows:

1. A Frederik Simonsen was located in a place identical with the family source.
2. Frederik Simonsen was born on the exact same date as Fred Simonsen.
3. A sister was found by the name of Gertrud Simonsdatter and she was born five years before Frederik.

Step # 4:

The marriage records are checked and we locate the entry for Simon Frederiksen and Signe Marie Amundsdatter 15 June 1831. The witnesses were Halvard Frederiksen and Amund Hansen. All resided in the parish of Åmotsdal.

Step # 5:

The death records are checked and we learn that Maren Simonsdatter died 23 Apr. 1848. Simon Frederiksen's death entry was recorded 23 Dec 1868 (age 63) and his wife Signe Marie Amundsdatter died 18 Feb 1872 (age 65).

Step # 6:

A search is made of the 1865 Census of Åmotsdal and the following found:

Simon Frederiksen, age 60, farmer, born in Åmotsdal.
Signe Marie Amundsdatter, age 58, his wife, born in Åmotsdal.
Gertrud Simonsdatter, age 30, single, their daughter, born in Åmotsdal.
Frederik Simonsen, age 25, single, their son, born in Åmotsdal.
Jorunn Simonsdatter, age 23, single, their daughter, born in Åmotsdal.
Kari Amundsdatter, age 52, widow, the wife's sister, born in Åmotsdal.

The immediate family of Fred Simonsen in Norway has now been located. It should be possible to extend the direct lines further. Much information has been found which should help in extending the lines, such as:

On the lines of Simon Frederiksen:

1. The census returns stated that he was born in Åmotsdal
2. His date of birth should be abt. 1805
3. He apparently has a sister by the name of Anne Marie Frederiksen and two brothers, Halvard Frederiksen and Arne Frederiksen (These persons were listed as witnesses to the christenings of Simon Frederiksen's children. Halvard Frederiksen was a witness to the marriage of Frederik Simonsen and Signe Marie Amundsdatter)

On the lines of Signe Marie Amundsdatter:

1. The census returns stated that she was born in Åmotsdal
2. Her date of birth should be about 1808
3. Her father may be the Amund Hansen who appeared as a witness to the marriage of Simon Frederiksen and Signe Marie Amundsdatter
4. She has a sister by the name of Kari Amundsdatter as mentioned in the 1865 census returns. This sister should have been born abt. 1813
5. She apparently has another sister by the name of Marit Amundsdatter. This person was also mentioned as one of the witnesses to the christenings of the children of Simon Frederiksen and Signe Marie Amundsdatter.

Procedure # 2

Jens Pedersen was married in Klim parish, Thisted county 13 June 1809. He is listed in the 1845 census returns of Klim as born in the parish of Børglum, Hjørring county. His age in the census is listed as 67.

Step # 1:

The researcher checks the parish registers of Børglum for the time period 1773-1783. The following entries were found:

1. 16 Feb 1774 christened Jens, the son of Peder Hansen, cottager in Børglum.
2. 18 May 1776 christened Jens, the son of Peder Knudsen, farmer in Børglum.
3. 6 Dec 1778 christened Jens, the son of Peder Hansen, Shoemaker in Børglum.
4. 30 Jan 1782 christened Jens, the son of Peder Pedersen, cottager in Børglum.

The information found shows four persons who could be the ancestor. Each of these persons are born within the proper time period. The challenge is now to find the ancestor we are looking for.

Step # 2:

The 1787 census returns of Børglum parish is checked and we locate these entries:

1. Peder Hansen, age 46, married once, Cottager and Shoemaker
Maren Hansdatter, age 43, married once, his wife
Marie Pedersdatter, age 16, single, their daughter
Hans Pedersen, age 13, single, their son
Jens Pedersen, age 9, single, their son
2. Peder Knudsen, age 38, married once, farmer
Margrethe Olsdatter, age 37, married once, his wife
Knud Pedersen, age 14, single, their son
Jens Pedersen, age 11, single, their son
Ole Pedersen, age 9, single, their son
Karen Pedersdatter, age 5, single, their daughter
3. Peder Pedersen, age 63, married twice, Cottager
Johanne Jensdatter, age 36, married once, his wife
Peder Pedersen, age 36, single, son of his first marriage
Jens Pedersen, age 5, single, their son

No other Jens Pedersen in that age group was found in the 1787 census returns of Børglum parish. It appears that the child listed as born in 1774 is dead or has moved away from the parish; however, we do find that there is a Peder Hansen who is both a Shoemaker and a Cottager. It seems likely that he is the father to the child who was born in 1774 as well as father to the child born in 1778 and that the first died before the second was born.

Step # 3:

To confirm this assumption a check is made in the death registers of the parish records and an entry is found as such:

1 Mar 1774 buried Jens, the son of Peder Hansen, Cottager and Shoemaker in Børglum.

There are now left only three possibilities of the four we found in the christening records.

Step # 4:

The Military Levying Rolls for the parish of Børglum are searched for the year 1789 (which is the first year of these records). The following entries are found under district (Laegd) # 16, which covers Børglum parish. Børglum parish at that time belonged to the county of Børglum.

139 / 121	Father: Peder Knudsen
Jens	age 13, born in Børglum, living at home
145 / 129	Father: Peder Hansen
Jens	age 11, born in Børglum, at home
163 / 142	Father: Peder Pedersen
Jens	age 7, born in Børglum, at home

These three persons are then followed in subsequent military levying rolls and we learn that Peder Pedersen's son Jens died in Børglum parish in 1805. Peder Knudsen's son Jens is in the military levying rolls of Børglum parish until the year 1806. He is then listed as being a farmer and married. We later locate him in the 1834 census returns of Børglum with his family and find him in the death records of the same parish in 1839.

Peder Hansen's son Jens was found in the 1809 military levying rolls of Børglum as moving to the parish of Klim in Thisted county.

Peder Hansen's son Jens who was christened 6 Dec 1778 should be the ancestor.

Procedure # 3:

The researcher has been able to find Peder Svendsen christened in the parish of Brarup in Maribo county 16 June 1746. He is the son of a Svend Knudsen, cottager in Brarup. The mother's name is not listed in the entry. The witnesses were listed as: Jens Andersen's wife from Eskildstrup (No name given), Søren Jensen, Anders Madsen and Niels Jensen all from Brarup. No other information was found in the parish registers of Brarup. The researcher would like to complete this family group and extend the direct lines further.

Step # 1:

In evaluating the information found in the christening entry of Peder Svendsen we learn that among the witnesses was a Jens Andersen's wife from Eskildstrup. Since this witness came from another parish it seems possible that she could be a relative of either the husband or wife.

A check is made of the parish registers of Eskildstrup to see if more information could be found about Jens Andersen and his wife and also to see if Svend Knudsen could be found in the marriage records of that parish or if he had any other children listed in the records.

Step # 2:

In searching the records we find a Jens Andersen and a Maren Gregersdatter who had a child christened in 1753. Among the witnesses to the christening of that child was listed Svend Knudsen's wife Margrethe Gregersdatter from the parish of Nørre Alslev. We do not find any marriage entry in that parish for a Svend Knudsen.

Step # 3:

The parish registers of Nørre Alslev are checked and Svend Knudsen and Margrethe Gregersdatter are listed in the christening records as having four children christened. Among the witnesses to the christenings of these children were a Søren Gregersen and a Hans Gregersen, both from the parish of Gundslev. Svend Knudsen was found in the death records of Nørre Alslev; he died 3 Sep 1779 and in the same record we find the death entry of his wife in 1786. This couple was not listed in the marriage records from that parish.

Step # 4:

Since two of the witnesses to the christenings of the children of Svend Knudsen and Margrete Gregersdatter had the surname Gregersen and came from the parish of Gundslev, a search is then made in these parish registers and here we are able to locate the marriage entry of Svend Knudsen and Margrete Gregersdatter. A christening entry for Margrethe Gregersdatter is also located in that parish. She is the daughter of a Gregers Sørensen and Anne Marie Hansdatter. This couple had seven children and among them we find a Søren Gregersen and a Hans Gregersen.

Søren Gregersen and Hans Gregersen had many children christened in the parish. Among the witnesses to the christening of Søren Gregersen's child in 1745 we find Peder Knudsen and wife Margrete Gregersdatter from Brarup parish. A probate administration is found after Gregers Sørensen in 1748 and among his children is listed Margrethe Gregersdatter, who was married to Svend Knudsen in Brarup.

It seems that we have been able to find the mother of Peder Svendsen and will be able to extend that line.

Step # 5:

Svend Knudsen died 3 Sep 1779 in the parish of Nørre Alslev. An effort is made to locate a probate administration after him, and the following information as found:

Probate Administration after Svend Knudsen, cottager in Nørre Alslev
1 Oct 1779:

Widow: Margrethe Gregersdatter

Her guardian: Her brother, Hans Gregersen from Gundslev

The Children:

A son, Knud Svendsen, age 37, farmer in N. Alslev.

A son, Gregers Svendsen, age 35, cottager in N. Alslev.

A son, Peder Svendsen, age 33, cottager in N. Kirkeby.

A daughter, Karen Svendsdatter, age 24, married to Anders Hansen in Nørre Alslev.

A daughter, Maren Svendsdatter, age 19, living at home.

Guardian for Maren Svendsdatter: Her father's brother, Søren Knudsen, farmer in Kallehave in Praestø county.

Step # 6:

A check is made in the parish registers of Kallehave in Praestø county and here we are able to find Svend and Søren Knudsen christened, the sons of Knud Sørensen and Mette Marie Svendsdatter. It is now possible to do further research on this line..

Procedure # 4:

Anne Madsdatter is listed in the 1845 census returns of Mern parish in Praestø county as 40 years old and her place of birth is recorded as "In this parish". A sister is also found in the same census returns by the name of Karen Marie Madsdatter, she is also born in the same parish and her age is given as 38. The parish registers of Mern begin 1814. However, the researcher would like to extend the direct lines further.

Step # 1:

The confirmation records of Mern parish are checked and the following entries are located:

Confirmed: Anne Madsdatter, born 29 Sep 1805, the daughter of deceased Mads Nielsen and Martha Jensdatter. Confirmed in 1820.

Confirmed: Karen Marie Madsdatter, born 16 Jan 1808, the daughter of deceased Mads Nielsen and Martha Jensdatter from Mern.

No other information pertaining to children of Mads Nielsen and Martha Jensdatter was found in the confirmation records.

Step # 2:

The death registers of Mern are searched and we locate an entry for a Mads Nielsen (age 42) on 18th Aug 1815. He is listed as a farmer in Mern. Another entry is found in 1833 for a Martha Jensdatter, widow of Mads Nielsen. Her age was given as 55..

Step # 3:

An effort is made to locate a probate administration and the following is found:

Probate Administration after Mads Nielsen in Mern , 18 Sep 1815

Widow: Martha Jensdatter

Children: Niels Madsen, age 15

Anne Madsdatter, age 10

Karen Marie Madsdatter, age 7

The widow's guardian: Her brother, Mikkil Jensen, farmer in Allerslev

The children's guardian: Their mother's brother, Lars Jensen, farmer in Allerslev.

Step # 4:

The 1801 census returns of Mern are checked and this entry found:

Mads Nielsen, age 28, married once, Cottager

Martha Jensdatter, age 23, married once, his wife

Niels , age 1, their son

No other Mads Nielsen is found in this census returns of Mern.

Step # 5:

The parish registers of Allerslev are checked and a marriage entry is found for a Mads Nielsen and a Martha Jensdatter 9 Jan 1799.

In the same parish registers is found a christening entry for Martha Jensdatter 9 June 1778, she is the daughter of Jens Mikkelsen and Gertrud Hansdatter. We also find three other children of this couple listed in the records, among them are Mikkel Jensen and Lars Jensen.

It is now possible to extend this line.

Step # 6:

In an effort to extend the lines of Niels Madsen a search is made of the Military Levying Rolls of Mern for the year 1803 and the following entry found:

188 / 163	Father: Mads Andersen	
	Niels	age 30, born in Snese, Cottager in Mern.

This is the only Niels Madsen we find in the Military Levying Rolls of Mern for that year..

Step # 7:

The parish registers of Snese are checked and a Niels is found christened 31 Oct 1773. He is the son of Mads Andersen and Karen Marie Olsdatter. No other Niels Madsen is found in the christening records five years before and after 1773.

It seems that we have the correct ancestor. No other Mads Nielsen was found in the 1801 census returns of Mern, nor in the Military Levying Rolls of Mern for 1803. The mother of the Niels who was christened in 1773 in Snese was Karen Marie Olsdatter, the same given names as the daughter of Niels Madsen and Martha Jensdatter.

An effort is then made to find brothers and sisters of Niels Madsen and to locate their families. Among the witnesses to the christenings of their children were mentioned Niels Madsen and his wife Martha Jensdatter from Mern.

It is now possible to continue on this line also..

ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

DENMARK:

Rigsarkivet(The National Archives), Rigsdagsgaarden 9, 1218 Copenhagen K.
Denmark

Landsarkivet for Sjaelland m. m. (The Provincial Archives for Sjaelland, etc.)
Jagtvej 10, 2200 Copenhagen N., Denmark
(Counties: Copenhagen, Frederiksborg, Praestø, Sorø, Holbaek,
Maribo, and Bornholm.)

Landsarkivet for Fyen (The Provincial Archives for Fuen), Jernbanegade 36,
5000 Odense, Denmark
(Counties: Odense and Svendborg.)

Landsarkivet for Nørrejylland (The Provincial Archives for North Jutland)
Lille Sct. Hansgade 5, 8800 Viborg, Denmark
(Counties: Hjørring, Aalborg, Thisted, Randers, Viborg, Aarhus,
Skanderborg, Ringkøbing, Vejle, and Ribe.)

Landarkivet for de sønderjyske Landsdele (The Provincial Archives for South
Jutland), Haderslevvej 45, 6200 Aabenraa, Denmark
(Counties: Aabenraa-Sønderborg, Haderslev, and Tønder.)

Matrikelsarkivet, Matrikelsdirektoratet, Titangade 13, 2200 Copenhagen N.
Denmark

Udvandreararkivet, (Danes Worldwide Archives), Korvalvej 2, 9000 Aalborg,
Denmark

Det Kongelige Bibliotek (The Royal Library), Christians Brygge, 1219 Copenhagen K.,
Denmark

Statsbiblioteket (The National Library), Universitetetsparken, 8000 Aarhus C.
Denmark

Frederiksberg Kommunebibliotek (Frederiksberg Municipal Library), Solbjergvej
21-25, 2000 Copenhagen F, Denmark

Samfundet for Dansk Genealogi og Personahistorie (The Danish Society for
Genealogy and Biography), c/o Sekretæren, Arkivar Hans H. Worsøe,
Stenshøj 12, Bruunshaab, 8800 Viborg, Denmark

Hvem Forsker Hvad (Who Research What), Red. Wolf Møller, Nedrevej 64, Albaek,
8900 Randers, Denmark

Sammenslutningen af Lokalhistoriske Foreninger (The Society of Local Histories),
c/o Overlaerer Ole Warthoe-Hansen, Blaaregnvej 17, 8900 Randers
Denmark

Sammenslutningen af Lokalhistoriske Arkiver (The Society of Local Archives),
c/o Skoleinsp. A. Strange Nielsen, Toksvaerd Skole, 4684 Holme Olstrup,
Denmark

Archives, Libraries and Genealogical Societies (continued)

NORWAY:

Riksarkivet (The National Archives), Bankplassen 3, Oslo 1, Norway

Statsarkivet i Oslo (The Regional Archives in Oslo), Prinsens gate 7-9, Oslo 1,
Norway
(Counties: Østfold, Akershus, Oslo, Buskerud, Vestfold, and Telemark)

Statsarkivet i Hamar (The Regional Archives in Hamar), Strandgata 71, N-2300 Hamar,
Norway
(Counties: Hedmark, and Oppland)

Statsarkivet i Kristiansand (The Regional Archives in Kristiansand), Vesterveien 4,
N-4600 Kristiansand S., Norway
(Counties: Aust-Agder and Vest-Agder)

Statsarkivet i Stavanger (The Regional Archives in Stavanger), Domkirkeplassen 1,
N-4000 Stavanger, Norway
(County: Rogaland)

Statsarkivet i Bergen (The Regional Archives in Bergen), Aarstadveien 22,
N-5000 Bergen, Norway
(Counties: Bergen, Hordaland, and Sogn og Fjordane)

Statsarkivet i Trondheim (The Regional Archives in Trondheim), Høgskoleveien 12,
N-7000 Trondheim, Norway
(Counties: Møre og Romsdal, Sør-Trøndelag, Nord-Trøndelag, Nordland,
Troms, and Finnmark)
Please note: The principal records relating to Troms and Finnmark, are
kept at the Statsarkivkontoret in Tromsø, Petersborggata
21-29, N-9000 Tromsø, Norway

Landslaget for Bygde- og Byhistorie (The Society for Local or Town History),
Gyldenløvegata 22 b, Oslo 2, Norway

Norsk Historisk Forening (Norwegian Historical Society), Oslo University Press,
Blindern, Oslo 3, Norway

Norsk Lokalhistorisk Institutt, Sommerro gate 17, Oslo 2, Norway

Norsk Slekthistorisk Forening (Norwegian Genealogical Society) Øvre Slottsgt. 17,
Oslo, Norway

Universitetsbiblioteket i Oslo (The Royal University Library, Oslo) Blindern, Oslo 3,
Norway

Universitetsbiblioteket i Bergen (The University Library of Bergen), N-5000
Bergen, Norway

Bergens Offentlige Bibliotek (Municipal and County Library), N-5000 Bergen, Norway

Archives, Libraries and Genealogical Societies (continued)

U.S.A.

Norwegian-American Historical Assoc.
St. Olaf College
Northfield, Minnesota 55057

Archives of the American Lutheran Church
Wartburg Theological Seminary
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

The Genealogical Society
of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
50 East North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150

B.Y.U. University Library
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah 84601

Vesterheim Genealogical Center
Norwegian-American Museum
502 W. Water Street
Decorah, Iowa 52101

The Supreme Lodge of the Sons of Norway
1312 West Lake Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

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Published by J.G. Stevenson, 260 East 2100 South, Provo, Utah (1965)

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